



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

Today's Topic: Mental Illness

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**
Worship Leader / **Melanie Ralston**
Music Director & Accompanist / **Linda Smith**
Song Leader / **Gayle Hassler**
Guest Musician / **Carlos Cabezas**
Videographer / **Tim Sharp**

Prelude

"Fill My Cup, Lord"

Statement of Aspiration

We are a people who believe in a God who is still speaking, loving and inclusive.

We are a congregation that aspires to accept each person as they are.

**We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary,
and where we aspire to seek a just and peaceful world.**

**We are a community committed to being an Open and Affirming congregation
of the United Church of Christ. And that means...**

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome and affirmed here.**

Greetings and Announcements

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

***Bold** indicates to speak in unison.*

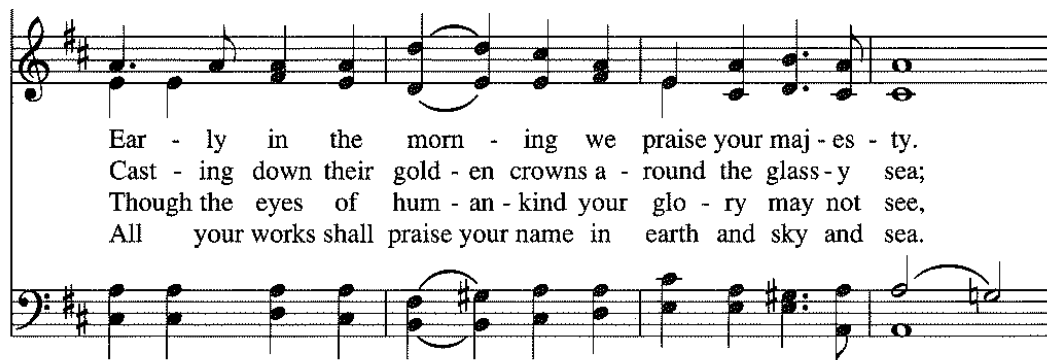
Gathering Words

* Gathering Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



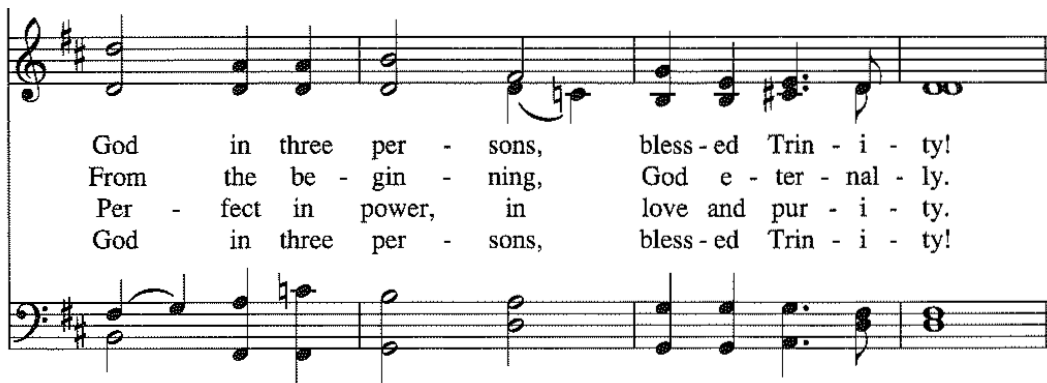
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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Calling on God

God, we cry out to you with open hearts. We ask for the courage to share our pain — to tell stories that may be difficult to tell, to hear stories we might not want to hear, and to listen for the gifts our struggles can bring.

We want to be a community that can sing sad songs.

We want to be a community that does “real life” together. Amen.

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Holy God, you created all of us in your image. We recognize and confess that too often we do not see you in the people with whom we disagree.

And yet they carry your image no less so than people who agree with us.

Forgive us and open our hearts. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Friends, know that anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;

anyone in Christ is part of the beloved community;

anyone in Christ is forgiven and redeemed. Hallelujah!

A Reading

From “Brave Church”

Special Music

Carlos Cabezas

Our Sacred Story

Psalms 88:3-8

³ Because my whole being is filled with distress, my life is at the very brink of hell.

⁴ I am considered as one of those plummeting into the pit.

I am like those who are beyond help, ⁵ drifting among the dead, lying in the grave, like dead bodies — those you don’t remember anymore, those who are cut off from your power.

⁶ You placed me down in the deepest pit, in places dark and deep.

⁷ Your anger smothers me; you subdue me with it, wave after wave.

⁸ You’ve made my friends distant. You’ve made me disgusting to them.

I can’t escape. I’m trapped! (Common English Bible)

Message

Rev. Gage Church

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* Congregational Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"



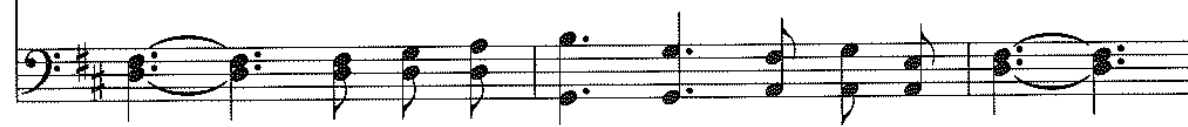
1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light! Vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my



fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.



God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



Time of Prayer

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song,” verse 1

**My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul — how can I keep from singing?**

Prayer Seeking Justice

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song,” verse 2

**What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living,
What though the shadows gather ’round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storms can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I’m clinging;
Since Love commands both heav’n and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

Joys and Concerns

We respond with “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Silent Meditation

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song,” verse 3

**When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing;
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?**

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song,” verse 4

**I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ’s — how can I keep from singing?**

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Offering

God is good! **All the time!**

All the time! **God is good!**

Let us share the goodness of our God.

A note to visitors: Your presence here today is a gift to us.

We are “centralchurchtopeka” on Venmo.

* Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

* Prayer of Dedication

God, we bring these offerings as a pledge of our loyalty to Christ and to the kingdom. Thank you for believing in us when we have lost confidence in ourselves.

Overcome our objections with your generous grace. Amen.

* Closing Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (reprise)

Holy, holy, holy, God the almighty!

Early in the morning we praise your majesty!

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

* Benediction

Postlude

“Sing Them Over Again to Me”

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