



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

Today's Topic: Racism

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**
Worship Leader / **Racheal DeLany**
Song Leader / **Gayle Hassler**
Guest Musician / **Carlos Cabezas**

Prelude

"Soon I Will Be Done"

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!

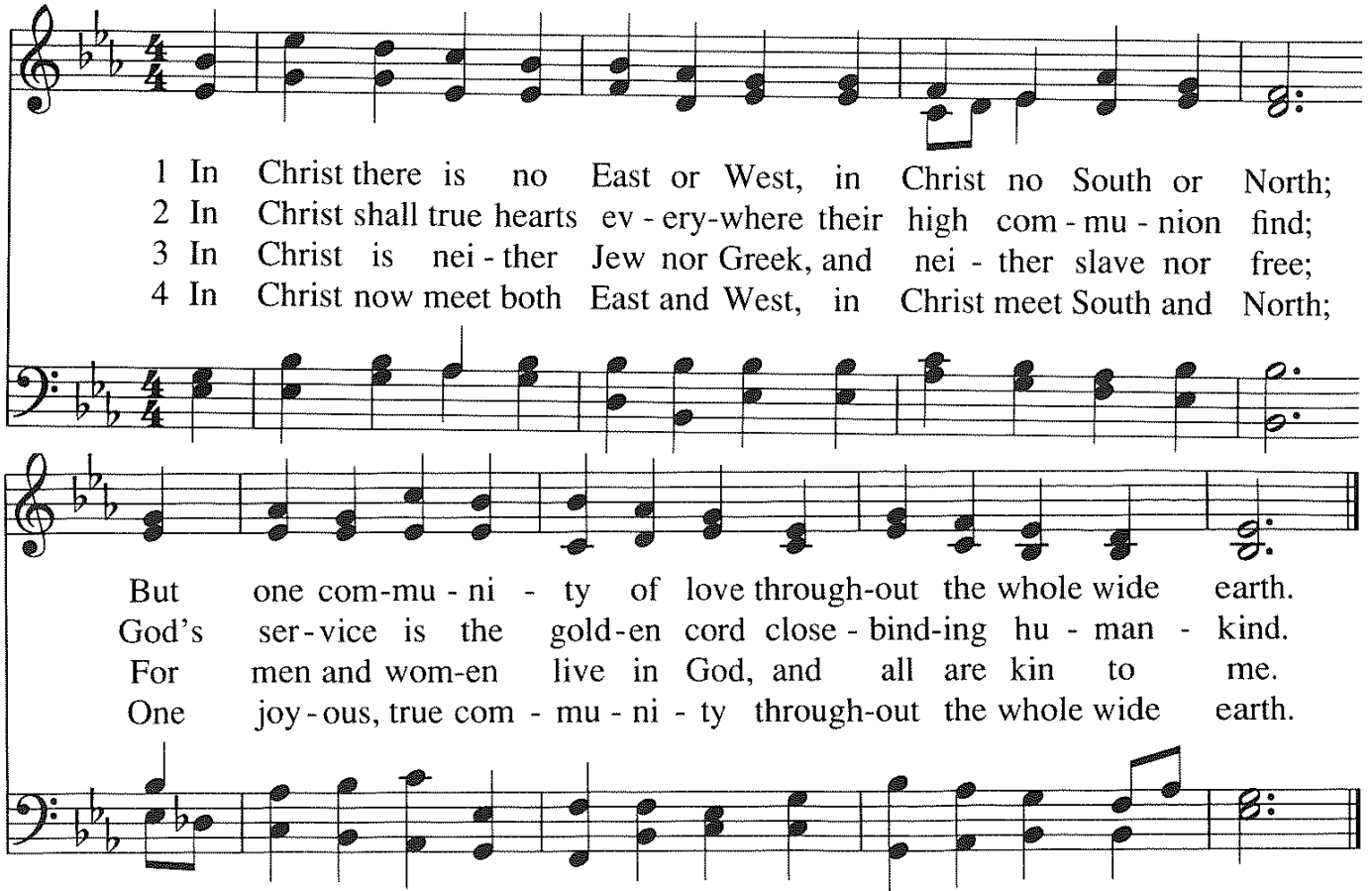
** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

Gathering Words

* Gathering Hymn

"In Christ There Is No East or West"



1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com - mu - nion find;
 3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
 4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.
 One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

Calling on God

God, your presence radiates throughout this room as we come together today. We come to make space in our hearts for new stories. Give us the courage to recognize our biases, and help us to let go of the prejudices that hinder our ability to see one another clearly. Expand our vision of what it means to become a beloved community. 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 who look different than us. And yet they carry your image no less so than people of our own race. Forgive us and open our hearts. Amen.

Silent Reflection

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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
Matthew 7: 3-4

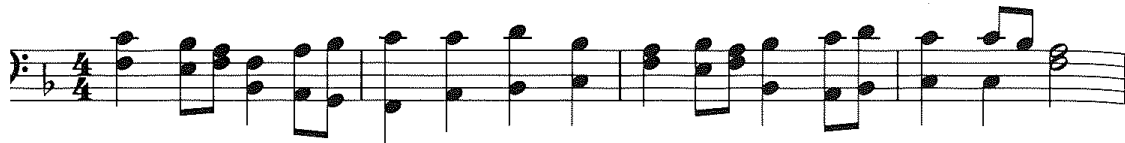
³ Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? (CEB)

Message
 Rev. Gage Church

*** Congregational Hymn**
"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
 2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
 3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



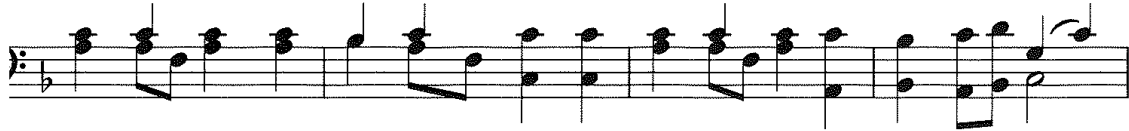
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With the cross of Christ our stan-dard, let us sing as with one voice,
Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom-ise: we who are the church re - joice.
Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.



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?**

Prayer for Memorial Day

God of all peoples, today we pause to reflect on the sacrifice made
by those who paid the ultimate price on behalf of our nation.

We pray that their sacrifices are never forgotten,
nor is the pain of their families.

**We acknowledge that freedom comes at a cost
and pray that we can pursue peace.**

**We hope that, someday, we'll celebrate Memorial Day
as just a memory of the time before we started living the peaceful existence
you intended for us since the beginning of creation.**

Let us turn to you, God, in our grief and in our remembrance of the fallen.

Guide us toward a harmonious existence
as we honor those who were willing to give up their lives
that we may gather here today freely.

**On this Memorial Day, we pray for peace
and for those who gave all.**

**Lead us toward a world where no one
must give their life in pursuit of freedom.**

**May we be receptive to your guidance,
and may we never forget the fallen. Amen.**

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Father, 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?**

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**

“In Christ There Is No East or West” (reprise)

In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;

But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

*** Benediction**

Postlude

“I’ll Fly Away”

