



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

WELCOME!

September 1, 2024

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Melanie Ralston**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Prelude

“I Surrender All”

***Opening Hymn**

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

Call to Worship

For those times when we move in the shadow,
unaware or unwilling to be aware
of how our actions affect others,

**we come together in the light
to find our joy in God.**

For those times when we deceive ourselves —
not revealing to ourselves or others
the true nature of our vulnerabilities and fears,

**we come together in the truth
to find forgiveness in fellowship.**

For those times when life has been revealed,
and we have ignored or denied it,

**we come together to touch grace
in the presence of the Spirit of Christ.**

Greetings and Announcements

Passing the Peace

Prayer of Affirmation

God of Dawn and Dusk,
how grateful we are for your loving mercies.
**You see our fear and doubt, our suspicion, our mistrust,
and you invite us to replace them
with hope, peace, love and joy.**

You called us to be your witnesses to all the world,
unafraid of what others might think or say about us.

**We have been invited out of our hideaways,
into the light of your world as emissaries
of hope and justice, peace and compassion.**

Be with us as we join in ministries of healing and hope
through this church, in our community, nation and world.

**Give us courage and strength to be your disciples
in all the circumstances of our lives. Amen.**

The Reading

1 John 3:1-3

See what love Abba God has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized God. My dear friends, now we are God's children, but it has not been revealed what we are to become in the future. We know that when it comes to light we will be like God, for we will see God as God really is. All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

Special Music

"Somebody Prayed for Me"

Linda Smith, Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers

Message

"The Mama and the Papa"

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

"Bring Many Names"

**Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!**

**Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and hosanna! Strong mother God!**

**Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and hosanna! Warm father God!**

**Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and hosanna! Great living God!**

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Bold indicates to speak or sing in unison.

Joys and Concerns

We respond with "Lord, hear our prayer."

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Please pray any version you wish.

Here is one version:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering

We are "centralchurchtopeka" on Venmo.

A note to visitors: Your presence with us today is a gift in itself.

*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 of love, you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways.
Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you.
Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance,
walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ
and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink.
Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do:
to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls,
to free prisoners and to make the powerful care. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
I’ll be there in case you wander off
and find where demons dwell.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I’ve begun.

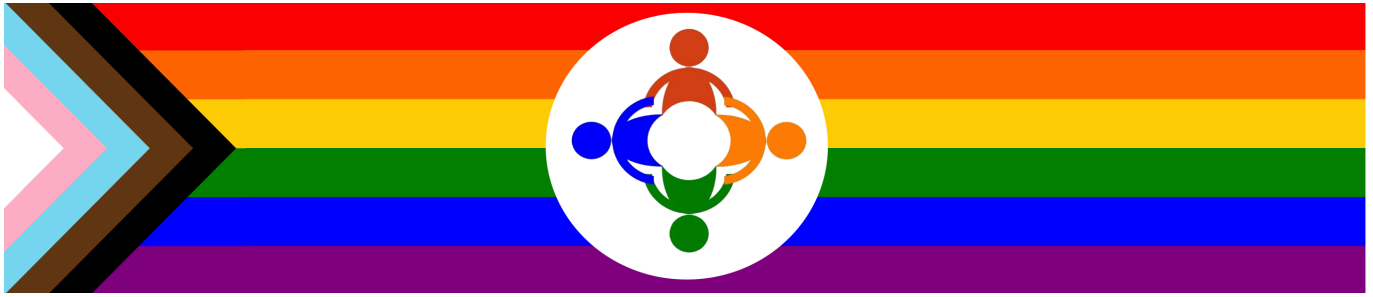
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

*Benediction

Postlude

“Amen”



Central Congregational Church UCC

5221 SW West Drive, Topeka, KS 66606
centralchurchtopeka.org

785-235-2376
info@centralchurchtopeka.org

Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

Moderator: **Brenda Soldani**
Moderator-Elect: **Linda Wilder-Towery**
Treasurer: **Chaunzey Tenbrink**
Clerk: **Gayle Hassler**
Church Council At-Large Members:
Maggie Eddy, Ottie Reed, Becky Wedeking

The Church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Pastor Gage can be reached at pastor@centralchurchtopeka.org or 385-205-9985.

Celebrating over 25 years of being an Open and Affirming Congregation!

We affirm Christ's call to love God with all that we are and love our neighbors as ourselves, to invite, receive and value all people regardless of gender, race, age, culture, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic circumstance, family configuration or difference in ability.



www.facebook.com/CentralTopeka
Can't make it to church on Sunday morning?
We stream live on our page!

Worship notes: Prayer of Affirmation adapted from Nancy C. Townley; Prayer of Dedication by Mary Petrina Boyd.

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