



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

GOOD MORNING

May 31, 2026

Ministers / **All of us**

Guest Preacher / **Jennifer Parson**

Worship Leader / **Melanie Ralston**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

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

Music for Gathering

***Opening Prayer**

God of love, help us live up to our aspirations,
as we affirm Christ's call to love you 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.
We are all one in you. Amen.

***Congregational Hymn**

"All Are Welcome"

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place!

Continued on next page.

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

Bold indicates to speak or sing in unison.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face.

Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place!

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place!

Greetings & Announcements

Call to Worship

We could be anywhere this morning,
but we are here.

Our minds might wander to events and tasks awaiting us,
but we will re-center ourselves to be here now with God.

To God we give this time:
Sacred moments of at-one-ness.

Prayer of Unburdening

God, may there be healing for those deep wounds that cause us to go wrong
again in the same old ways. May we then be able to let go of all the unnecessary
guilt that weighs us down. Infuse us with a vision of your goodness. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

The Reading

Esther 1:3-5, 7-13, 16-18

In the third year of Ahasuerus' reign, he gave a banquet for all the officials
and courtiers. For no fewer than a hundred and eighty days he displayed the
vast riches of his kingdom and the splendid glory of his majesty. At the end of
this period, the king gave a banquet for seven days in the court of the king's
palace garden for all the people who lived in the fortress Shushan, high and
low alike.

* indicates to rise in body or spirit.

Bold indicates to speak or sing in unison.

Royal wine was served in abundance, as befits a king, in golden beakers, beakers of various design. And the rule for drinking was, "No restrictions!" For the king had given orders to every palace steward to comply with each man's wishes. In addition, Queen Vashti gave a banquet for women, in the royal palace of King Ahasuerus.

On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, he ordered the seven eunuchs in attendance on King Ahasuerus to bring Queen Vashti before the king wearing a royal diadem, to display her beauty to the peoples and to the officials, for she was a beautiful woman. But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs. The king was greatly incensed, and his fury burned within him.

Then the king consulted the sages learned in procedure. "What [he asked] shall be done, according to the law, to Queen Vashti for failing to obey the command of King Ahasuerus conveyed by the eunuchs?"

Thereupon Mamucan declared in the presence of the king and the ministers: "Queen Vashti has committed an offense not only against your Majesty but also against all the officials and against all the peoples in all the provinces of King Ahaseurus. For the queen's behavior will make all wives despise their husbands, as they reflect that King Ahasuerus himself ordered Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come. This very day the ladies of Persia and Media, who have heard of the queen's behavior, will cite it to all Your Majesty's officials, and there will be no end of scorn and provocation."

Special Music

Message

Jennifer Parson

*Congregational Hymn

"How Great Thou Art"

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed!**

Continued on next page.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,
Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!
Refrain

Joys and Concerns

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Please pray any version you wish. Here is one version:
Our Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your Kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the Kin-dom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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**

Loving God, from you we receive grace, mercy, forgiveness, and hope.
May our own gifts plant seeds of grace, mercy, forgiveness,
and hope in our world. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Be Now My Vision”

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart —
you my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
you and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

***Benediction**

***Music for Sending**

“Amen”



** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

Storm Chaser & Touch a Truck

Special Announcement from Doorstep!

9 AM - 2 PM

Doorstep's NeighborFest

A Calm in the Storm

1966  2026

For 60 Years

Food Trucks

Car Show

Walk & 5K Run

JUNE 6TH, 2026

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH
5973 SW 25TH TOPEKA, KS 66614

- 9TH ANNUAL NHH WALK/5K FUN RUN
- CAR SHOW, TOUCH-A-TRUCK, RAFFLES, & MORE!
- FREE FAMILY FUN ZONE
 - FACE PAINTING, BALLOON ANIMALS, BOUNCE HOUSES

DOORSTEPTOPEKA.ORG

Logos: Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas Gas Service, ServiceMASTER Restore, T-SHIRTS ETC, WIBW-TV, Capitol Federal, CoreFirst Bank & Trust, KTKA abc, ELLIOTT GROUP INSURANCE SOLUTIONS, 27 KSNT

DALLOOZA

TOPEKA PRIDE

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, 
AMPLIFYING LOVE

06.20.2026