



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

November 19, 2023

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Chaunzey Tenbrink**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

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

Prelude

“God Has Smiled on Me”

*** Opening Hymn**

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;**

**What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?**

**I have blessed peace with my Savior near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

Call to Worship

In Jesus Christ, God has removed our sins from us and given us a new name.

Now we are called Forgiven.

In Jesus Christ, God has assured us that God could never forget us.

Now we rejoice that we are called Remembered.

In Jesus Christ, God has changed our perspective that we are enemies of God and grace.

Now we are called Friends.

Let us worship our God, who delights in us and rejoices over us.

Greetings and Announcements

Passing the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, we come to you asking for help. We have looked back on our mistakes for too long. We are tired of feeling guilty. We could have made better choices, but we cannot go back and change them. God, we release all our anxiety into your hands. It is not your will that we hate ourselves or refuse to forgive ourselves. Imperfection is a part of our earthly nature. Help us accept our flaws and know that you love us in spite of them. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Readings

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.

Matthew 22:37-39

[Jesus] replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Special Music

Carlos Cabezas

Message

Rev. Gage Church

* Congregational Hymn

"It Is Well With My Soul"

When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,
 when sorrows like sea billows roll,
 Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
 "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 It is well (it is well)
 with my soul (with my soul)
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
 let this blessed assurance control,
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 and has died on the cross for my soul:
 It is well (it is well)
 with my soul (with my soul)
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
 when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
 The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
 "even so" it is well with my soul.
 It is well (it is well)
 with my soul (with my soul)
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

Joys and Concerns

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

We respond with "Lord, hear our prayer."

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.

Offering

God is good! **All the time!**
 All the time! **God is good!**
 Let us share the goodness of our God.

* 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

**Seeking God, our roots stretch out to you so that we may bear
 fruit for the world. May these gifts reflect your grace everywhere. Amen.**

* Closing Hymn

“Glory, Glory, Hallelujah”
**Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 Since I laid my burdens down.
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 Since I laid my burdens down.**

**Friends don’t treat me like they used to
 Since I laid my burdens down.
 Friends don’t treat me like they used to
 Since I laid my burdens down!**

**I’m goin’ home to live with Jesus
 Since I laid my burdens down.
 I’m goin’ home to live with Jesus
 Since I laid my burdens down.**

* Benediction

Postlude

“Praise to the Lord”