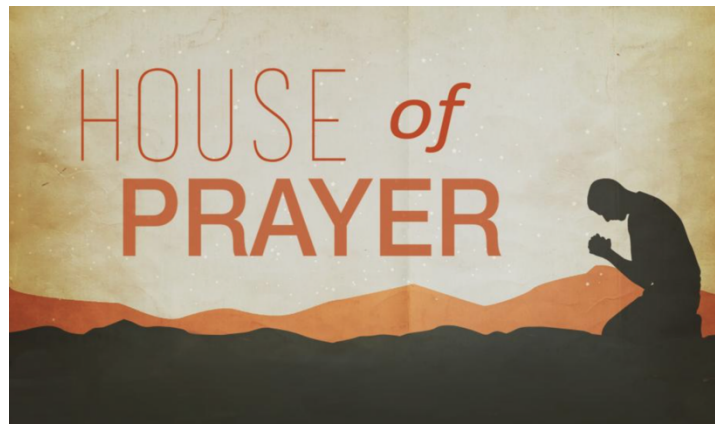




Central Congregational United Church of Christ

AUGUST 16, 2026

Ministers / **All of Us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Melanie Ralston**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Music Guest / **Valerie Ball and Ray Ortega**

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

Music for Gathering

Opening Breath

***Congregational Hymn**

"We Gather Together"

**We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
to live in community, seeking God's will.**

**We come now, as sisters and brothers,
confessing the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.**

**Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
you call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.**

**All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom to follow or stray,
empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.**

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

Call to Worship

In the gathering of school supplies,
in the harvesting of gardens:

God blesses us beyond imagination.

In the simple acts of daily chores,
in the kindness shared by a stranger:

God is gracious to us.

In the rapture of a child watching a butterfly,
in the inquisitive look of a senior
wondering where they left their keys:

God's face shines upon us.

Prayer of Unburdening

**In too many instances, God, we choose not to follow you.
From our hearts to our mouths flow words that hurt others.**

Too often our thoughts lead us away from you.

**We are richly blessed, but think others should be grateful
for the crumbs we offer to them.**

We too often exhibit an inability to trust you in all things.

We come to you because you are gracious and forgiving.

You offer us the fullness of your love, not just a few drops.

You refuse to let us go, but sweep us up with arms of joy. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

The Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says God: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ... And the foreigners who join themselves to God, to minister to God, to love the name of God, and to be God's servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant — these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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Special Music

"Amazing Grace"

Valerie Ball and Ray Ortega

Message

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

"You Are a Child of God"

1. **Bb** **F** **C** 2. **Bb**

1. You are a child of God. You are a glimpse of God's
2. You are an end - less prayer. You are a year - ning for
3. You are an an - gry voice. You are com - pass - ion and
4. You are a cry for peace. You are com - mit - ment and
5. You are a song of joy. You are the mo - ment of

F **C** 3. **Bb** **F** **C** 4.

new cre - a - tion. You are a child of God. You are a
con - tem - pla - tion. You are an end - less prayer. You are an
cons - ter - na - tion. You are an an - gry voice. You are an
de - di - ca - tion. You are a cry for peace. You are a
ju - bi - la - tion. You are a song of joy. You are a

Bb **F** **C** **C** **Bb** **F** **C**

child of God.
and - less prayer.
an - gry voice.
cry for peace.
song of joy. (→ repeat 1st verse, canon)

Resources: www.evensong.ca.

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

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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

**Gathering God, may we not offer you the leftovers
of our resources and our lives, but let these gifts
instead be part of what we give back to you,
as we seek to serve your people and your creation. Amen.**

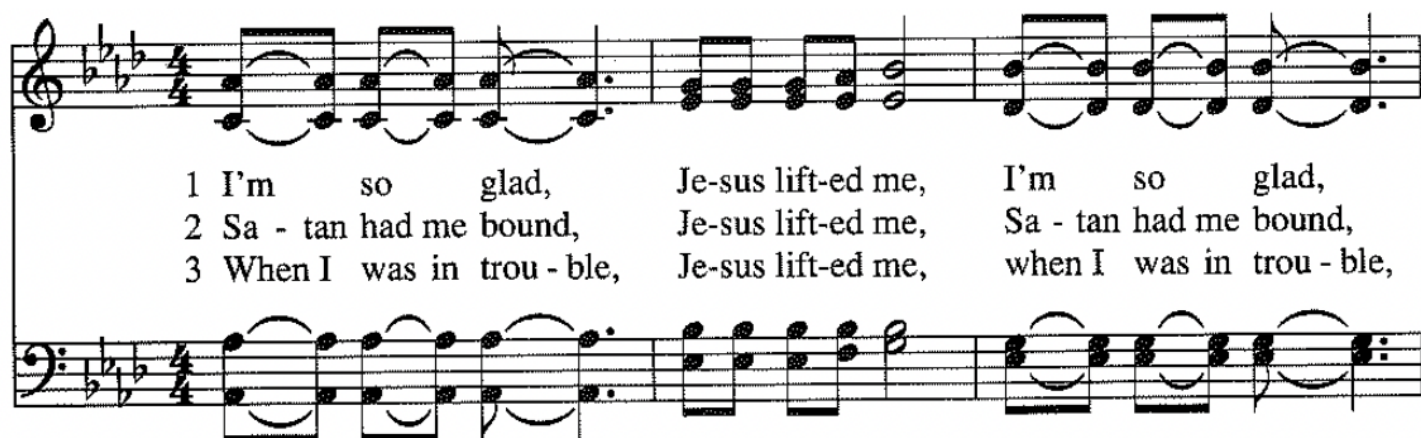


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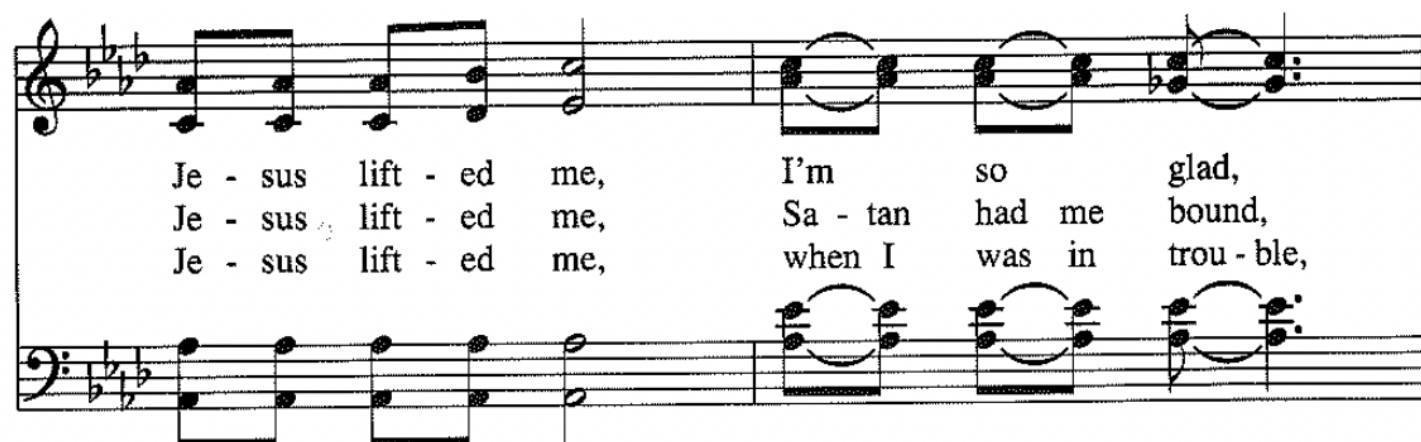
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*Closing Hymn

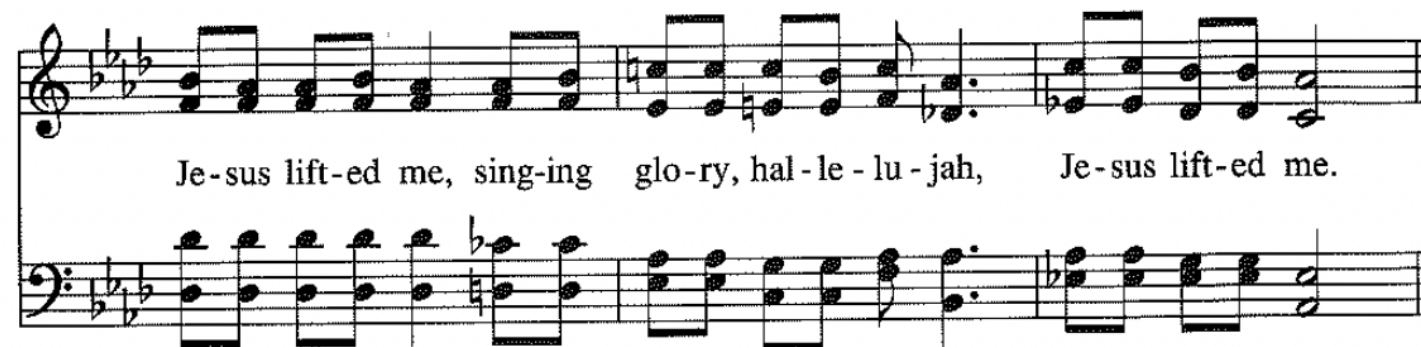
"I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"



1 I'm so glad, Je-sus lift-ed me, I'm so glad,
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, Je-sus lift-ed me, when I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me, I'm so glad,
Je - sus lift - ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
Je - sus lift - ed me, when I was in trou - ble,



Je-sus lift-ed me, sing-ing glo-ry, hal-le - lu - jah, Je-sus lift-ed me.

*Benediction

Music for Sending

"Amen"

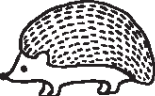
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CHASING WONDER

★ PHOTO BINGO CHALLENGE ★

GRAB YOUR PHONE (OR CAMERA!) AND START CHASING GOD'S BEAUTY, JOY, JUSTICE, HOPE, HUMOR, AND INSPIRATION ALL AROUND. MARK OFF SQUARES AS YOU GO, AIMING FOR A "BINGO," OR COMPLETE THE WHOLE BOARD!

 BIRD'S EYE VIEW	 SOMETHING BROKEN	 SOMETHING THAT FLIES	 A PLACE YOU LOVE	 A SELF PORTRAIT
 SOMETHING THAT GROWS	 SOMETHING WHOLE	 SOMETHING TINY	 A SURPRISING SHADOW	 KINDNESS
 SOMETHING YELLOW	 LIGHT	PAY <i>Attention</i> BE <i>Astonished</i>	 SOMETHING OLD	 WATER
 A REFLECTION	 SOMETHING PEACEFUL	JUSTICE ROLLING DOWN	 SOMETHING NEW	 SOMETHING HOPEFUL
SOMETHING ★ THAT ★ MAKES YOU LAUGH	 SOMETHING BLUE	 A PATTERN OR TEXTURE	 NEIGHBORLY LOVE	 RESURRECTION

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