

“If you can’t fly, then run,  
if you can’t run, then walk,  
if you can’t walk, then crawl,  
but whatever you do,  
you have to keep moving forward.”  
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



# Central Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 7, 2022

Ministers / **All of us**  
Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**  
Worship Leader / **Ottie Reed**  
Music Director & Accompanist / **Linda Smith**  
Song Leader / **Gayle Hassler**

## Prelude

### 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

*\* indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

## The Peace

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

## Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God, your power surrounds us in the glory of creation.  
 Your presence enfolds us in the silence of a sacred space.  
 Your love speaks to us in the awesomeness of nature.  
**We listen for your voice above the noise of life.**

And yet we refuse to sing in harmony with your will.  
 We exclude others from our chorus of love.  
 Forgive us, God, when we fail to dance to your tune.  
 Guide our steps once more that we might move with you  
 toward a world that resonates with justice, peace and praise. Amen.

*A moment of silent reflection.*

## Words of Assurance

### \* Opening Hymn

*“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
 my great Redeemer's praise,  
 The glories ever echoing  
 the triumphs of God's grace!**

**Jesus! the name that calms our fears,  
 that bids our sorrows cease,  
 Is music in the sinner's ears,  
 is life and health and peace!**

**Glory to God, and love and praise  
 be ever, ever given  
 By all the saints in every age,  
 the church in earth and heaven.**

## The Reading

*Hebrews 11:29-36, 12:1-2*

<sup>29</sup> By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith Jericho's walls fell after the people marched around them for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute wasn't killed with the disobedient because she welcomed the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup> What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. <sup>33</sup> Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection.

Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. ...

<sup>12:1</sup> So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, <sup>2</sup> and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne. (Common English Bible)

### \* 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 the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:  
Hail and Hosanna! Warm father God!**

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

### Message

Rev. Gage Church

### \* Congregational Hymn

*"We Shall Overcome"*

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
 we shall overcome some day;  
 Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
 we shall overcome someday.**

**We are not afraid, we are not afraid,  
 We are not afraid today;  
 Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
 we are not afraid today.**

**The truth shall make us free, the truth will make us free,  
 the truth shall make us free some day;  
 Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
 the truth shall make us free someday.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,  
 we shall live in peace some day;  
 Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
 we shall live in peace someday.**

### Joys and Concerns

*We respond with "Lord, hear our prayer."*

### Silent Meditation

### Pastoral 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.

*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 offer you these gifts as a sign of praise and a sign of our commitment  
 to serve you in whatever way we can. Bless them and bless us. Amen.

## \* Congregational Hymn

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
 let us break bread together on our knees.  
**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
 My God, have mercy on me.**

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
 let us praise God together on our knees.  
**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
 My God, have mercy on me.**

## Holy Communion

This is God's table, prepared for all and so all are invited.  
At Central Church, we celebrate the open table.

Beloved, God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give God thanks and praise.

**It is a good and a joyful thing to give God thanks and praise. ...**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Most Gracious God, we thank you and praise you  
for what you have given**

**and for what you have promised us here.**

**You have made us one with all of your people  
and with your good creation.**

**You have fed us with the bread of life,  
and renewed us for your service.**

**Now we give ourselves to you;  
and we ask that our daily living  
may be part of the life of your new creation. Amen.**

## \* Closing Hymn

*"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

**O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,**

**The glories ever echoing  
the triumphs of God's grace!**

## \* Benediction

## Postlude