



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

GOOD MORNING!

August 17, 2025

Ministers / **All of us**
Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**
Worship Leader / **Melanie Ralston**
Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**
Guest Musician / **Carlos Cabezas**
Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Music for Gathering

"Dance With the Spirit"

***Prayer of St. Francis**

God, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us bring love.
Where there is offense, let us bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let us bring union.
Where there is error, let us bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let us bring faith.
Where there is despair, let us bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let us bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let us bring joy.
God, grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in self-forgetting that we find,
it is in forgiving that we are forgiven,
it is in dying that we awaken to eternal life. Amen.

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

*Congregational Hymn

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Refrain

Draw the cir-cle wide. Draw it wid - er still.

Let this be our song, no one stands a-lone, stand-ing side by

side, draw the cir-cle wide.

1-3, Final to Verses

4 Verses

wide. Draw the cir-cle

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle,
2. Let our hearts touch far ho - ri - zons,
3. Let the dreams we dream be larg - er,

1. 'Round whom all cre - a - tion turns; Noth-ing lost, but
2. So en - com-pass great and small; Let our lov - ing
3. Than we've ev - er dreamed be - fore; Let the dream of

to Refrain

1. held for-ev - er, In God's gra-cious arms.
2. know no bor-ders, Faith - ful to God's call.
3. Christ be in us, O - pen ev - ery door.

Greetings & Announcements



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Call to Worship

Listen! Wisdom is calling!

**Before all began,
God, Word and Wisdom — creating, calling.**

Listen! Wisdom is calling!

**From the mountain tops,
woods, fields and sea — creating, calling.**

Listen! Wisdom is calling!

**To those who suffer,
God's love is given and endurance blossoms.**

Listen! Wisdom is calling!

**Daily, God's delight,
you, me — everyone! — receive hope, grace and love.**

Listen! Wisdom is calling!

**Poured into our hearts
that we may become Christ's hands and heart and love.**

Prayer of Unburdening

**Author of Life, you challenge us to be imaginative,
to be open to new ways of understanding who and how you are.
Often we limit our imaginations to tradition — to “the way it has always been” —
with the result that our experience of you is less than it might be.
Open our hearts, minds and souls to the broad expansiveness of who you are.
Help us see you in new ways and move past the limits we have been taught. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Passing the Peace

The Reading

Proverbs 8:1-8

Doesn't Wisdom call? Doesn't Understanding raise her voice? On the hills along the road, at the crossroads, she takes her stand; beside the city gates of the town, in the gates themselves, she cries out, “Women and men, people everywhere, I'm calling out to you! I cry out to all of humankind! You who are simple, learn how to make sound judgments! To the foolish among you, use your common sense! Listen closely, for what I say is worth hearing, and I will tell you what is right; for my mouth will speak the truth, and my lips hate to lie. Everything I say is right; none of it is twisted or crooked.

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Special Music

Carlos Cabezas

Message

“Leonard”

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Refrain: Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain my God spoke,
out of God’s mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; looked so fine;
I asked my God if all were mine.

Refrain

Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,
it chills the body, not the soul.
There’s only one train on this track:
it runs to heaven, then right back.

Refrain

Joys and Concerns

We respond with “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Time of Silence

Blessing for Educators

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 Kin-dom 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 Kin-dom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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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

**You call us to be your light in the darkness,
your voice in the wilderness, your hope for the hopeless.**

**You give us strength in our weakness,
peace and gentleness, words and boldness,
to proclaim more of you and less of us. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

Early in the morning we praise your majesty.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God the beginning, God eternally!

**Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,
though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
you alone are holy, you alone are worthy,
perfect in power, in love and purity.**

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

From the beginning, God eternally!

*Benediction & Music for Sending

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Here are some photos from Rev. Dee Moore's ordination service last Sunday.
Central had many representatives there to cheer her on!



Celebrating over 30 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.

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