



# GOD IS MY HELPER

## Central Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Melanie Ralston**

Music Director & Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Song Leader / **Gayle Hassler**

### Prelude

*"In the Sweet By and By"*

### 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.**

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

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

## Greetings and Announcements

### The Peace

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

### Prayer of Praise and Confession

God, it is not you who divides humanity  
into the haves and have nots,  
the rich and poor,  
the powerful and the powerless,  
the worthy or unworthy,  
the valued and those cast aside.  
It is we who label and stereotype.  
Forgive us for the lines that separate and partition.

Forgive us for the occasions when  
we question the worth of others.  
Merciful God, with your healing power  
take what is misdirected in us and put us right.  
Give us that second chance to be  
the people you expect us to be. Amen.

*A moment of silent reflection.*

## Words of Assurance

### \* Opening Hymn

*"This Is the Day"*

This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that our God has made,  
we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made.

**This is the day, this is the day  
 Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;  
 we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
 This is the day Jesus rose again,  
 we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
 This is the day, this is the day  
 Jesus rose again.**

**This is the day, this is the day  
 when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;  
 we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
 This is the day when the Spirit came,  
 we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
 This is the day, this is the day  
 when the Spirit came.**

## **The Reading**

*Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

<sup>1</sup> Keep loving each other like family. <sup>2</sup> Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. <sup>4</sup> Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. <sup>5</sup> Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. <sup>6</sup> This is why we can confidently say,

The Lord is my helper,  
 and I won't be afraid.  
 What can people do to me?

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!... <sup>15</sup> So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices. (Common English Bible)

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# \* Congregational Hymn

## "Jesus the Christ Says"

(verses 1, 2 and 4)

C G/B C Dm/F

1 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the bread, the bread of life for the  
 2 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the way, the way and the truth and the  
 3 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the light, the one true light of the  
 4 Je - sus the Christ says, I am the life, the res - ur - rec-tion and the

C/G G C Dm/F G

world am I. The bread of life for the world am I, the  
 life am I. The way and the truth and the life am I, the  
 world am I. The one true light of the world am I, the  
 life am I. The res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I, the

Am Em G/D D G C G/B

bread of life for the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,  
 way and the truth and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,  
 one true light of the world am I. Je - sus the Christ says,  
 res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I. Je - sus the Christ says,

C Em Am Dm G7 C

I am the bread, the bread of life for the world am I.  
 I am the way, the way and the truth and the life am I.  
 I am the light, the one true light of the world am I.  
 I am the life, the res - ur - rec-tion and the life am I.

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# Message

## \* Congregational Hymn "How Firm a Foundation"

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

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## 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.*

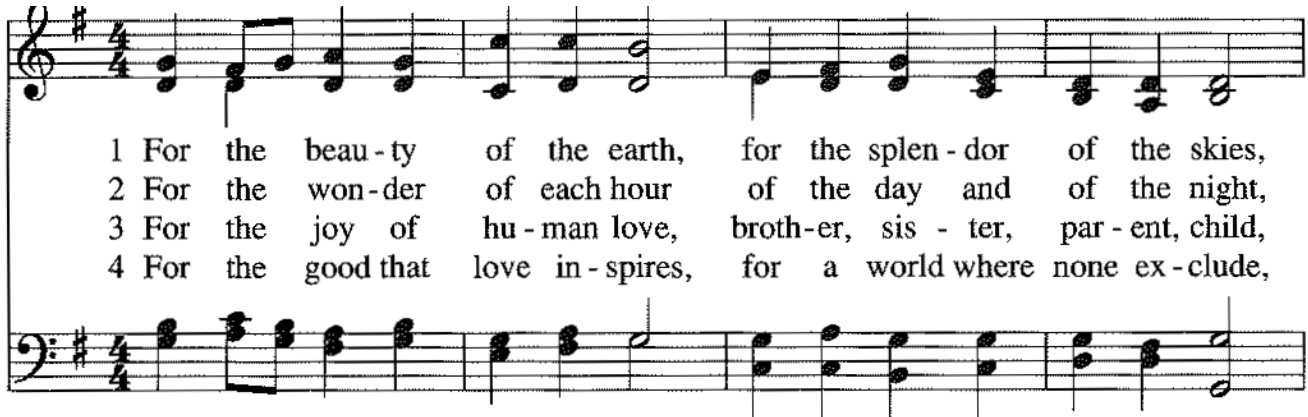
## \* Doxology

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

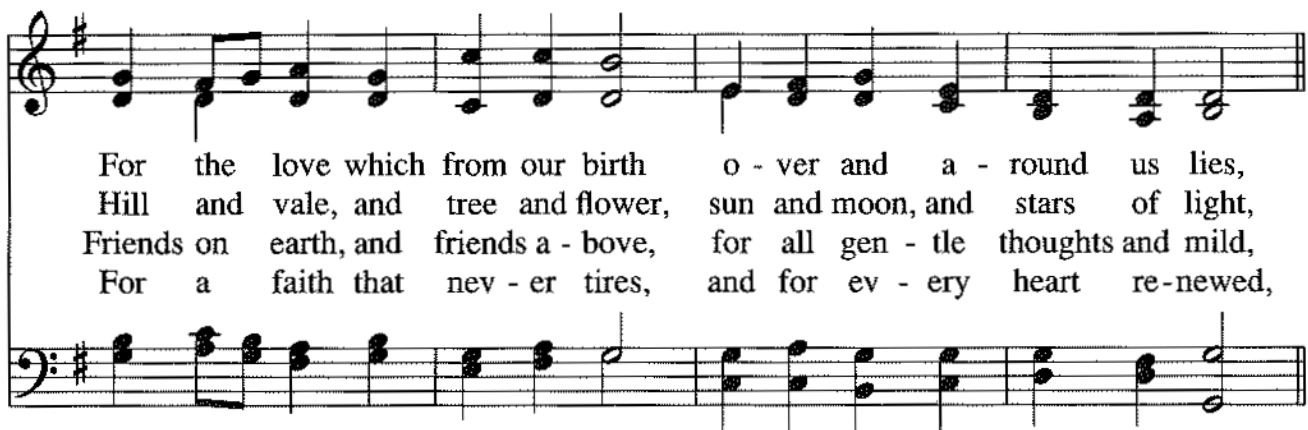
## \* Prayer of Dedication

Merciful God, we know that you seek nothing other than  
 faithfulness and full participation in life as you intend it,  
 but today we bring you these gifts as tokens of our resolve  
 to play our part in the work of the church,  
 and the establishment of your Kin-dom. Amen.

**\* Closing Hymn**  
*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

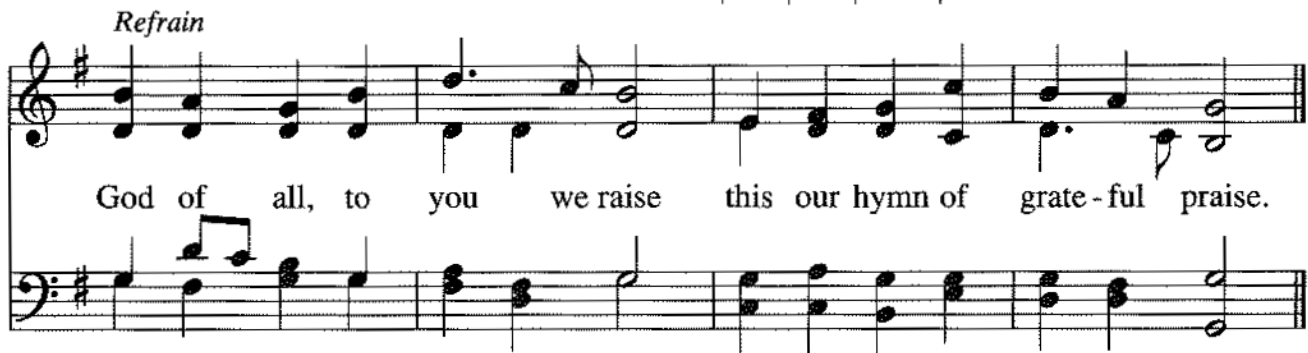


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**  
*"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"*

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## Central Congregational Church UCC

5221 SW West Drive, Topeka, KS 66606  
centralchurchtopeka.org

785-235-2376  
info@centralchurchtopeka.org

**Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m.**  
**Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month**

Moderator: **Brenda Soldani**  
Moderator-Elect: **Linda Wilder-Towery**  
Treasurer: **Chaunzey Tenbrink**  
Clerk: **Gayle Hassler**  
Church Council At-Large Members:  
**Maggie Eddy, Ottie Reed, Becky Wedeking**

*The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*  
*Pastor Gage can be reached at [pastor@centralchurchtopeka.org](mailto:pastor@centralchurchtopeka.org) or 385-205-9985.*

***Celebrating over 25 years of being an Open and Affirming Congregation!***  
***[openandaffirming.org](http://openandaffirming.org)***

**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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Can't make it to church on Sunday morning?  
We stream live on our page!