



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

WEEK 5 OF LENT: BREAD FOR COMMUNITY

April 6, 2025

Ministers / **All of us**
Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**
Worship Leader / **Becky Wedeking**
Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**
Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Music for Gathering

"Thine Is the Glory"

Greetings & Announcements

Preparing for Worship

Call to Worship

Come down and worship together!

The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.

You are witnessed, worthy and welcomed today by Jesus, the bread of life.

The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.

Let us feast at the table of love and justice, where no one dines alone.

The bread of life has come to sustain us.

Believing this promise, let us worship together!

**Gracious God, as we gather
in this season of reflection and repentance,
you call us from our hiding places
and invite us to the table of grace.**

You see us in our brokenness and meet us with mercy.

**You offer us the bread of life that nourishes our souls,
heals our wounds, and strengthens us for the journey of faith.**

Open our hearts to your transforming love. Amen.

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

***Congregational 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!**

Prayer of Confession

**God of righteousness and justice,
while we center and glorify people
who are talented, famous, conventionally beautiful or wealthy,
you see beauty in places we tend to ignore or neglect.
We confess we have judged people
by their ability to fit into social norms,
win awards, accumulate wealth and perform with power.
We have overlooked the value of those
who don't fit our standards, who struggle to be seen,
or who are dismissed by society.
We have neglected to honor the dignity
of those unlike us or displaced from their homelands.
We have allowed our biases to shape our actions and choices.
Forgive us for the times we have failed to reflect
your inclusive love and justice.
Open our eyes to see the worth of every person. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Passing the Peace

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The Reading

Luke 19:1-10

Entering Jericho, Jesus passed through the city. There was a wealthy person there named Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector. Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, but he couldn't do so because of the crowd, since he was short.

In order to see Jesus, Zacchaeus ran on ahead, then climbed a sycamore tree that was along the route. When Jesus came to the spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry up and come on down. I'm going to stay at your house today." Zaccheaus quickly climbed down and welcomed Jesus with delight.

When everyone saw this, they began to grumble, "Jesus has gone to a sinner's house as a guest." Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to Jesus, "Here and now I give half my belongings to poor people. If I've defrauded anyone in the least, I'll pay them back fourfold."

Jesus said to the tax collector, "Today salvation has come to this house, for this is what it means to be a descendant of Sarah and Abraham. The Promised One has come to search out and save what was lost."

Special Music

"How Great Thou Art"

Tim Sharp

Message

"Now? Yes, Now"

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

"Jesus the Christ Says"

**Jesus the Christ says, I am the bread,
the bread of life for the world am I.
The bread of life for the world am I,
the bread of life for the world am I.
Jesus the Christ says, I am the bread,
the bread of life for the world am I.**

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Jesus the Christ says, I am the light,
the bright true light of the world am I.
The bright true light of the world am I,
the bright true light of the world am I.
Jesus the Christ says, I am the light,
the bright true light of the world am I.

Jesus the Christ says, I am the life,
the resurrection and the life am I.
The resurrection and the life am I,
the resurrection and the life am I.
Jesus the Christ says, I am the life,
the resurrection and the life am I.

Joys and Concerns

We respond with "Lord, hear our prayer."

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

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.

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 high and low;
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word and Spirit One.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, we offer these gifts as a sign
of our gratitude for the bread of life that sustains us.
May these offerings be used to feed the hungry, welcome our neighbors,
and spread your love and justice throughout the world.
Bless both the giver and the gift,
that they may bear fruit for your Kin-dom. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Holy God, here at this table, we have encountered Jesus' Spirit,
bringing us wholeness so we might be satisfied by the bread of life.
Because Jesus faced death and emerged victorious,
this bread does not spoil; this cup never runs dry.
As we leave this place of worship,
our spirits are renewed and rejuvenated.
There is enough for each of us.
Therefore, we will share this joy and love with others. Amen.**

Prayer of Affirmation

**We believe all people, regardless of their past or position,
are worthy of community and belonging.
We believe Jesus calls us to break down barriers,
share generously and restore dignity to all.
We believe when we come together around a table,
the transformative power of food and fellowship
can heal divisions and create justice.
We believe in sharing resources, lifting each other up,
and ensuring everyone has enough.
May our actions reflect the abundance of God's love,
creating a world where all are welcomed, safe and have enough. Amen.**

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***Closing Hymn**

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God, Immanuel, everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

***Benediction**

Music for Sending

“Toccata in C”

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 13 @ 10 a.m.

We will gather with other area churches
at First Christian Church, 1880 SW Gage Blvd.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 @ 6 p.m.

Our potluck and Communion service will be held in the dining room.

Easter, April 20 @ 7 a.m.

A multi-church Sunrise Service will be held at Ward-Mead Park.

Easter, April 20 @ 10 a.m.

Central's Easter service will be held at the church
in Old Prairie Town, Ward-Meade Park.

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