

# Central Congregational United Church of Christ

## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2026

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Janice Ayers**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Music Guests / **Carlos Cabezas and Valerie Ball**

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

## Music for Gathering

### \*Opening Prayer

Majestic and humble God, you bring healing  
to a world filled with brokenness and disease.

You bring joy to a world filled with loneliness and disappointment.

We shout for joy to you because your love endures forever  
and your faithfulness continues through all generations. Amen.

### \*Congregational Hymn

*"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

**Refrain:** All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.

*Refrain*

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.

*Refrain*

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

*Refrain*

## Greetings & Announcements

\* indicates to rise in body or spirit.

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

## Call to Worship

Welcome to church: not a place, but an invitation.

**Come and see.**

Not a building, but a way of engaging.

**Come and see.**

Not a service, but a way of serving.

**Come and see.**

Not an institution, but a path to adventure.

**Jesus said, "Come and see."**

## Prayer of Unburdening

God of grace and mercy, who created us from your own image and who declared us to be "very good," we recognize that we too often try to center the world on ourselves rather than see that we are part of a whole.

Forgive and reconcile us to you and to all people. Amen.

## Assurance of God's Love

### Passing the Peace

### The Readings

*Acts 1:3-11*

After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles — confirmed through many convincing proofs — over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God.

On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. "Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak," Jesus said. "John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

While meeting together they asked, "Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?"

Jesus replied, "It's not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

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Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them.

“You Galileans — why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you — this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

*“The Voice”*  
Shel Silverstein

## Special Music

Carlos Cabezas and Valerie Long

## Message

*“Keep Your Feet on the Ground and Keep Reaching for the Stars”*  
Rev. Gage Church

## \*Congregational Hymn

*“On Eagle’s Wings”*

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in God’s shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”**

***Refrain:* And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear;  
under God’s wings your refuge, God’s faithfulness your shield.**

***Refrain***

**You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though all seems lost around you, near you it shall not come.**

***Refrain***

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# Joys and Concerns

## 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.

### \*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

**Gracious God, you give us grace, mercy, forgiveness, and hope.  
May our gifts plant seeds of hope in our chaotic world. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*  
**He's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole wide world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands!**

*Continued on next page.*

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He's got the itty bitty baby in his hands,  
he's got the itty bitty baby in his hands,  
he's got the itty bitty baby in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands!

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands,  
he's got you and me, sister, in his hands,  
he's got you and me, family, in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands!

He's got everybody here in his hands,  
he's got everybody here in his hands,  
he's got everybody here in his hands,  
he's got the whole world in his hands!

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*Music for Sending**

*"Amen"*

## **SAVE THE DATES**

**Justice and Safety Check-in @ 9 a.m. every first Sunday**  
**Adult Sunday School @ 9 a.m. all other Sundays (except May 31)**  
**Meditation @ 5 p.m. every Monday**  
**Book Club @ 4 p.m. every Thursday**

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**Doorstep's NeighborFest / June 6 @ 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Worship at Gage Park / June 14 @ 10 a.m.**  
**Topeka Pride Palooza / June 20 @ 6-10 p.m.**  
**Interfaith Pride Program / June 25 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Drag Bingo / June 27 @ time tbd**

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# Doorstep's NeighborFest

## A Calm in the Storm

1966  2026

### For 60 Years

**JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
5973 SW 25<sup>TH</sup> TOPEKA, KS 66614

- 9TH ANNUAL NHN WALK/5K FUN RUN
- CAR SHOW, TOUCH-A-TRUCK, RAFFLES, & MORE!
- FREE FAMILY FUN ZONE
  - FACE PAINTING, BALLOON ANIMALS, BOUNCE HOUSES

[DOORSTEPTOPEKA.ORG](http://DOORSTEPTOPEKA.ORG)

**Storm Chaser & Touch a Truck**

**Special Announcement from Doorstep!**

**Food Trucks**

**Walk & 5K Run**

**Car Show**

**9 AM - 2 PM**

**Logos:** Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas Gas Service, ServiceMASTER Restore, T-SHIRTS ETC., WIBW-TV, Capitol Federal, CoreFirst Bank & Trust, KTKA abc, ELLIOTT GROUP INSURANCE SOLUTIONS, 27 KSNT

# DALOOZA

**TOPEKA PRIDE**

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY,  
AMPLIFYING LOVE

**06.20.2026**