



Welcome to worship!
Sunday, October 11, 2020



Gather

Bold type invites the congregation to speak in unison.

PRELUDE

"I Will Celebrate," Linda Smith

OPENING PRAYER

God, just as you rescued the people of Israel from Egypt, setting them free to worship and serve you, so you have also rescued us, setting us free from the oppression of sin and selfishness, and inviting us into relationship with you and one another, and so we praise and thank you. **Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, you are more precious than gold, more powerful than royalty and presidents.
You remember us even when we forget you.
Let us remember and worship you today.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we hate to admit how many idols live in our lives. We long so much for dependability that we mistake money or power or stocks as security. Help us to instead focus on Sabbath, nourishment, servanthood and grace as the means to embody your love. And when we slip and fall, encourage us to look at the stars and be assured by the covenant promise, that you will always be our God and we will always be your people. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

A moment of silence for personal prayer.

God promised us grace over and over: to Abraham and Sarah, to Moses, Zipporah and Miriam, to the grumbling people in the desert. It is in this assurance of God's promise that we know, through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

"JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU"

Congregation (*see back page*)

Hear God's Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Gage Church

"I DON'T FEEL NO WAYS TIRED"

Linda Smith

EXODUS 32:1-14

¹ The people saw that Moses was taking a long time to come down from the mountain. They gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come on! Make us gods who can lead us. As for this man Moses who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't have a clue what has happened to him." ² Aaron said to them, "All right, take out the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took out the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He collected them and tied them up in a cloth. Then he made a metal image of a bull calf, and the people declared, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf. Then Aaron announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord!" ⁶ They got up early the next day and offered up entirely burned offerings and brought well-being sacrifices. The people sat down to eat and drink and then got up to celebrate. ⁷ The Lord spoke to Moses: "Hurry up and go down! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, are ruining everything! ⁸ They've already abandoned the path that I commanded. They have made a metal bull calf for themselves. They've bowed down to it and offered sacrifices to it and declared, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, "I've been watching these people,

and I've seen how stubborn they are. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone! Let my fury burn and devour them. Then I'll make a great nation out of you." ¹¹ But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, "Lord, why does your fury burn against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and amazing force? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'He had an evil plan to take the people out and kill them in the mountains and so wipe them off the earth'? Calm down your fierce anger. Change your mind about doing terrible things to your own people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, whom you yourself promised, 'I'll make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. And I've promised to give your descendants this whole land to possess for all time.'" ¹⁴ Then the Lord changed his mind about the terrible things he said he would do to his people. (Common English Bible)

MESSAGE

Rev. Gage Church

Respond in Faithfulness

"GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS"

Congregation (*see pages 6-7*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each prayer, we respond, "Lord, hear our prayer."

MEDITATIVE SILENCE & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 OF GIFTS

"Glory, Glory," Linda Smith

A note to visitors: Your presence today is a gift to us.

DOXOLOGY (HYMN OF PRAISE)

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

O God, by this offering we remember Christ on the cross.
Join our offerings to the gifts of all your people. Amen.

Depart to Serve

"LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN"

Congregation

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

SENDING PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Go and Tell the World," Linda Smith

Central Congregational Church UCC

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

785-235-2376
info@centralchurchtopeka.org



a just world for all

Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m.

Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month

Ministers: **All of Us**

Pastor: **Rev. Gage Church**

Music Director: **Linda Smith**

Secretary: **Mel Stewart**

Moderator: **Ottie Reed**

Moderator-Elect: **vacant**

Treasurer: **Brenda Soldani**

Clerk: **Gayle Hassler**

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pastor Gage can also be reached at pastor@centralchurchtopeka.org or 385-205-9985.

Celebrating over 20 years of being an Open and Affirming Congregation!

www.ucc.org/lgbt/ona.html

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.

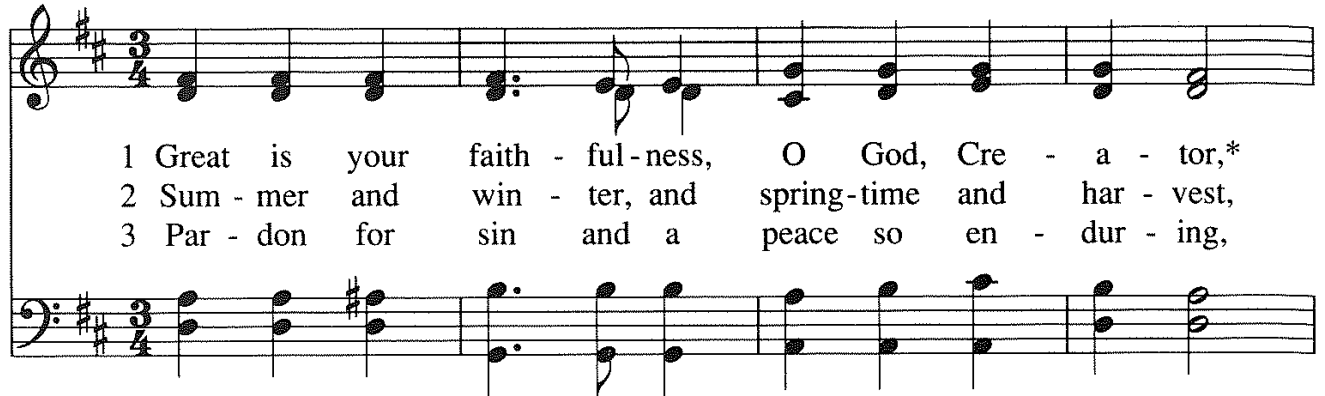


www.facebook.com/CentralTopeka

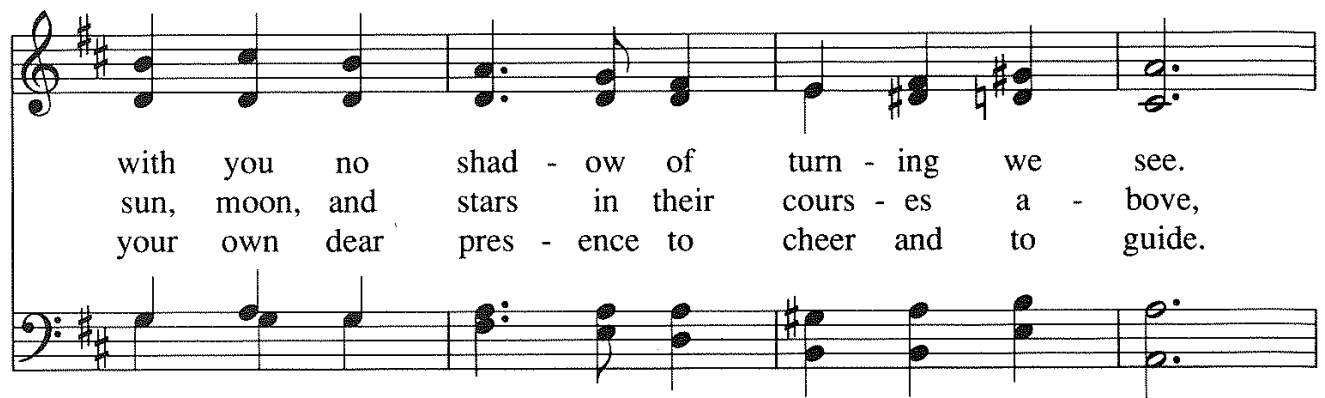
Can't make it to church on Sunday morning?

We stream live on our page!

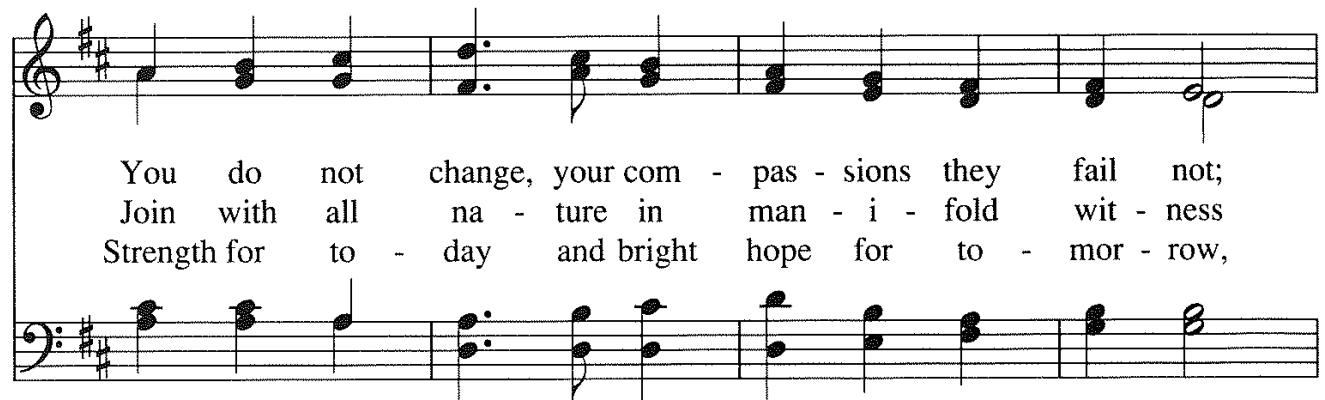
Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.



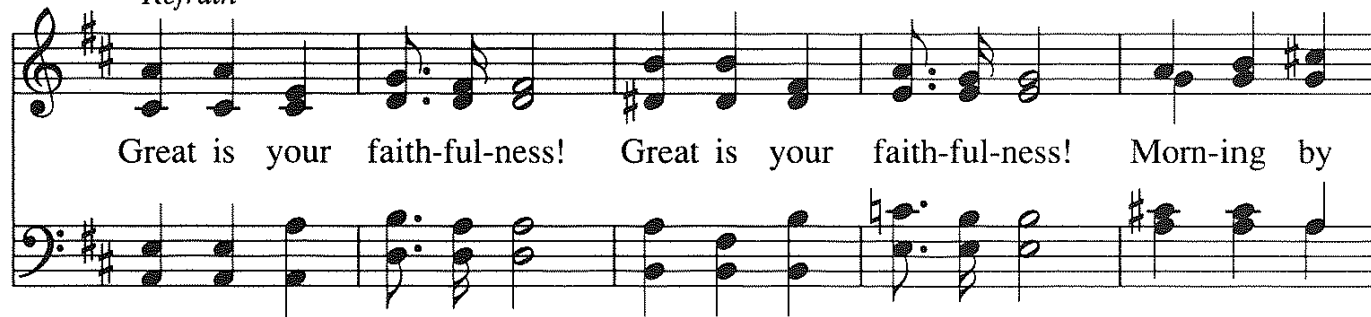
You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

Continued on next page

Refrain



Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your



hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful - ness, God, un - to me!

Announcements

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

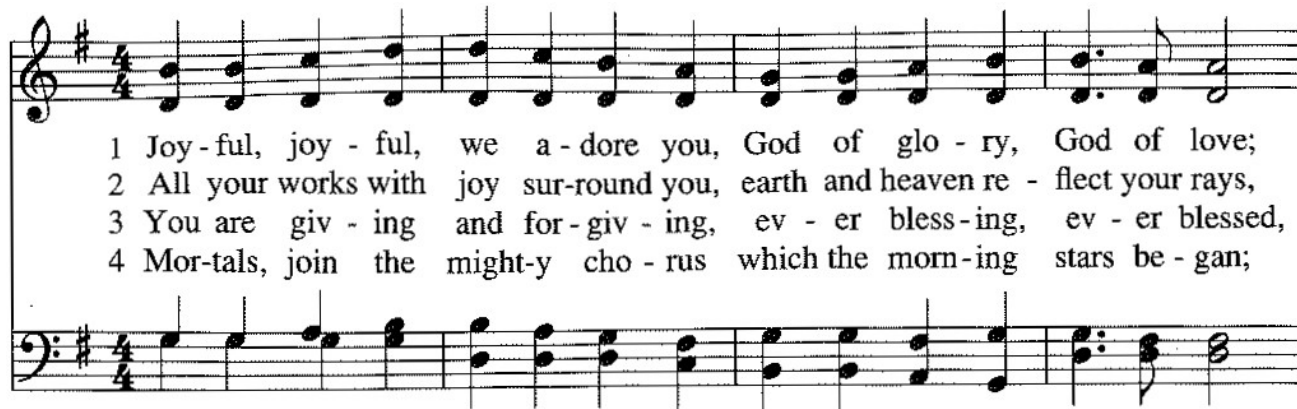
Vayda Carlson today!

NEW COMMITTEES:

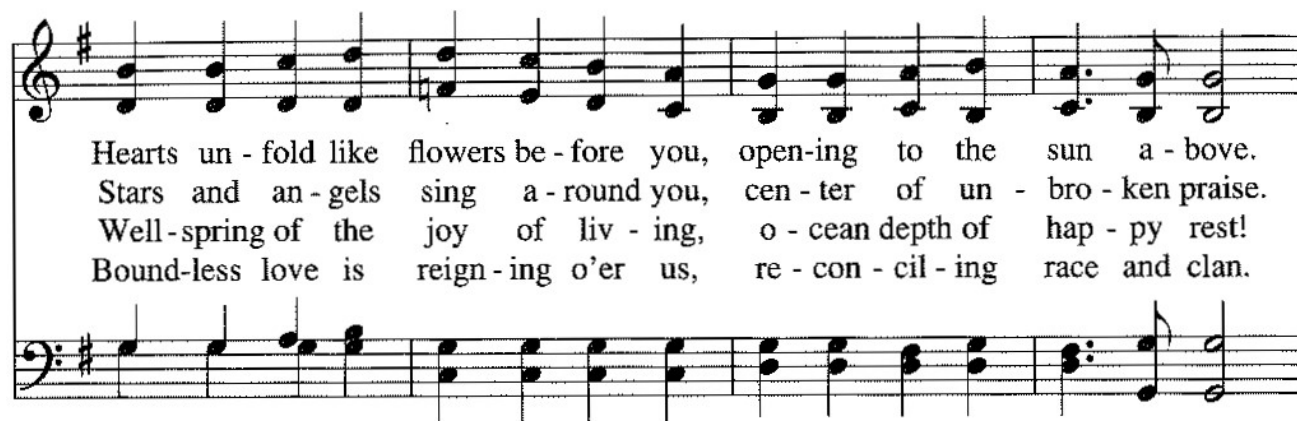
At last Sunday's congregational meeting, we voted to create two governing bodies for the coming year. The Board of Deacons will oversee the worship, fellowship, mission, justice, outreach and caregiving aspects of our church life. The Board of Directors will oversee financial, property, legal and stewardship aspects of our faith community. Elected to the Board of Deacons are Sarah McLaughlin, Melanie Ralston and Eddie Saldanha-Olson. Elected to the Board of Directors are Eve Kendall, Dee Moore and George Sloop. Officers will serve on both boards. They are: Ottie Reed, moderator; Brenda Soldani, treasurer; and

Gayle Hassler, clerk. We are still looking for a moderator-elect (or a treasurer, in which case Brenda would move to moderator-elect). If you're interested, see Ottie or Gage.

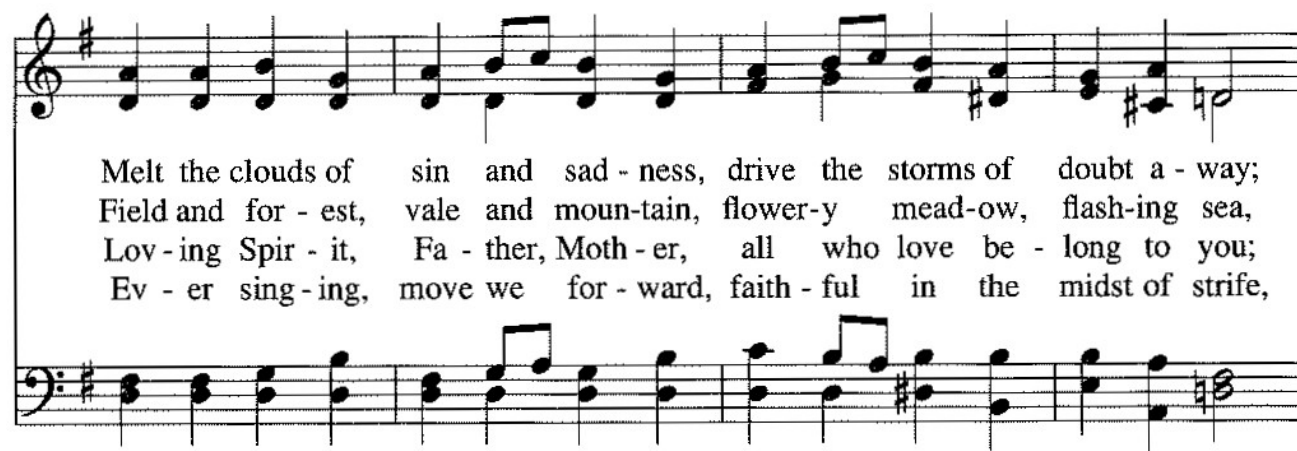
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You



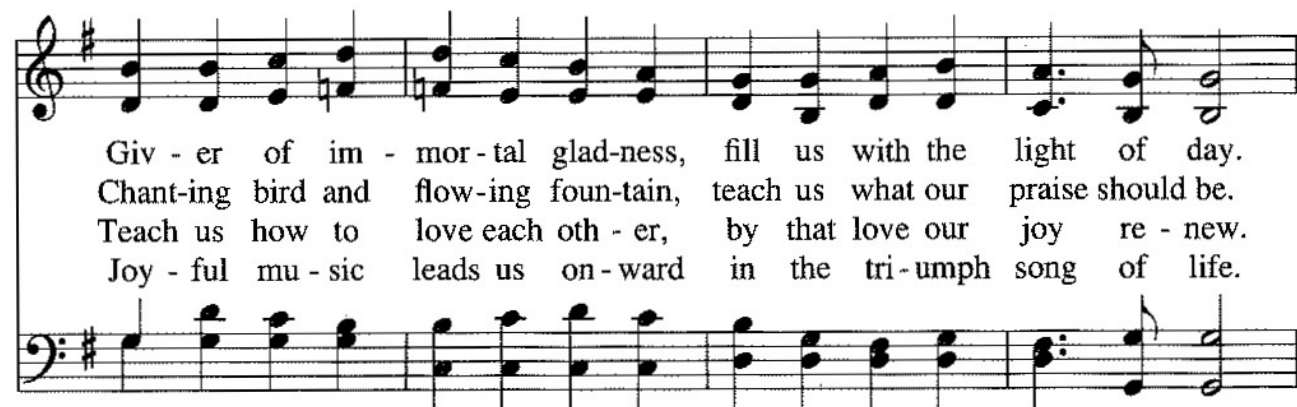
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Lov-ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing-ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri-umph song of life.