

# 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 6, 2017

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Classic Worship

## Chiming of the Hour

## Greeting

Dr. Jan Davis

## Opening Voluntary

*Menuet gothique*

*Léon Boëllmann*  
(1862-1897)

## \* Call to Worship

(8:30) Dr. Frode Gundersen  
(10:45) Dr. Jack Wilson

Leader: In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

**People: We gather, alive to the Word of God.**

Leader: You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**People: We listen, alive to the Word of God.**

Leader: You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

**People: We watch and wait for the Word of God to guide us.**

## \* Hymn 127

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

## \* Sermon Text

Esther 4:1-3, 12-16

This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

**Unlikely Heroes**  
Esther

Dr. Jan Davis

## Invitation to Repentance

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## Prayer of Confession and Pardon

**Loving God, we confess that too often Christ in us is hidden by our actions that wound rather than heal, that tear down rather than build up.**

**Open our eyes that we may see you in the ones we say we love.**

**Open our ears that we may be quicker to listen than to speak.**

**Open our mouths to speak good rather than evil of our neighbors.**

**And open our hearts to a desire to give back, and show love to others, so that our own deeds match your love for all of us. Amen.**

## Giving of our Tithes and Offering

## Offertory

*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
Scott Montgomery, organ & Frode Gundersen, piano

*arr. Linda McKechnie*

## \* Doxology 95

OLD 100<sup>th</sup>

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.**

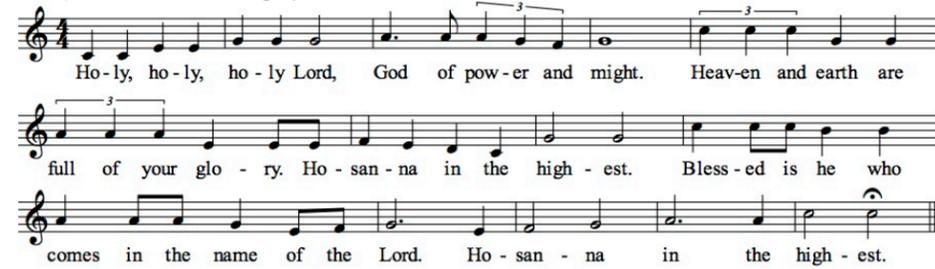
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## \* Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:*

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



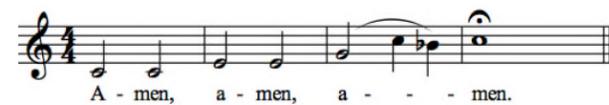
*The pastor continues the thanksgiving and concludes:*

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:*

All honor is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever:



## Giving of the Bread and Cup

## Receiving Prayer

## \* Hymn 415

*Take Up Thy Cross*

GERMANY

## \* Benediction

## \* Closing Voluntary

*Fanfare*

*William Mathias*  
(1934-1992)

(\*) The asterisk indicates to please stand, as you are able.

## Central UMC Pastors:

Dr. Jan Davis, Dr. Steve Pulliam, Rev. Carl Palmer, Rev. Greg Gibson  
Rev. Emily Burch - College Pastor; Rev. Jody Farrell - Genesis Campus Pastor  
Dr. Jack Wilson - Pastor Emeritus; Rev. Tony Holifield - Pastor Emeritus

**Director of Classic Music and Worship Arts:** Dr. Frode Gundersen

**Associate Music Director/Organist:** Scott Montgomery

**Acolytes:** (8:30) Victor Blasingame & Katie Jong

(10:45) Eli Schulz & Anna Ziegler

**Video/Sound:** Sam Thomas

## So Long Summer Block Party

Get ready for our So Long Summer Block Party on August 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All are invited to this free community event featuring: water slides, bounce houses, food, tropical snow cones, and more!

## Promotion Sunday &

## Back to School Blessing

August 13 is Promotion Sunday! Children ages 3 - 12th grade will begin a new Sunday School year during the 9:30 hour. Following Sunday School, all are encouraged to be present in either of the 10:45 worship services to receive a "back to school blessing" from our pastors and a backpack tag. As we conclude our Unlikely Heroes sermon series, children are invited to wear a superhero costume. Parents, check out [centraltolife.com](http://centraltolife.com) for a Sunday morning class of your own.

## Fall Classes

Fall class registration is now open on our website, [centraltolife.com](http://centraltolife.com). We have a great line-up this fall with lots of classes and small groups. Start the evening with our new Midweek Worship & Communion at 5:30 in the Wesley Chapel. A light meal is provided every Wednesday for children and adults that are registered for KidsLife or adult classes.

## Newcomer Connection

Are you interested in becoming a member of Central or looking for ways to be more connected? Then Newcomer Connection is the place to start. Join us Sunday, August 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the Wesley Chapel where you can learn more about what it means to be a United Methodist and how to get plugged into all that Central has to offer.

## Good SAM Pantry

The Good S.A.M. pantry item for the month of August is canned vegetables. Simply bring your donation items to the church and place them in the white bins located throughout our campus. Good S.A.M. is a great way to help families in need!

## Israel Trip Deadline

Still thinking of going on the Holy Land Tour with Dr. Steve Pulliam? Registration closes on September 20 so be sure to sign up today! For more info and to register, email Steve at [spulliam@centraltolife.com](mailto:spulliam@centraltolife.com).

## Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Tom Stark by his father, Robert Stark, brother, Robert Stark, Jr. and sister, Susan Ray.



## Great is Thy Faithfulness 30 Days of Prayer



As part of the Great is Thy Faithfulness campaign, we are asking that the Central family join in corporate prayer beginning July 28 and continuing until commitments are made on Sunday August 27. Join us as we ask ourselves, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"