

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

**October 29, 2017**

**11:00 A.M.**

***Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.***

GATHERING TO PRAISE

PRELUDE "Clair de Lune" Louis Vierne

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GETTING ACQUAINTED

STEWARDSHIP VIDEO "American Gothic, Sort Of"

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*CALL TO WORSHIP ON COMMITMENT SUNDAY

*Voice One: Jesus looked up*

*and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury;*

*Voice Two: Now the whole group of those who believed*

*were of one heart and soul,*

*and no one hoarded any of their possessions,*

*but everything they owned was held in common.*

**All: Gather us in, Holy One,  
show us the higher way.**

*Voice One: And Jesus saw a poor widow put in two copper coins.*

*Voice Two: There was not a needy person among them,*

*for as many as owned lands or houses sold them*

*and brought the proceeds of what was sold.*

**All: Gather us in, Compassionate Christ,  
help us to see a world as you see it.**

*Voice One: Jesus said, "Truly I tell you,*

*this poor widow has put in more than all of them;*

*for they all contributed out of their disposable income,*

*but she out of her limited means has been generous"*

*Voice Two: They laid gifts at the apostles' feet,*

*and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

**All: Gather us in, Sustaining Spirit,  
enable us to open our arms  
and extend our circle, going forward.**

\*HYMN "For the Beauty of the Earth" No. 92 (vs. 1, 2 5 & 6)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "Wade in the Water" Cherub Choir

**A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN**

***Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands* (congregation sings)**

*Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all, healing pain and sickness,*

*Blessing children small, washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;*

*Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.*

**CALL TO PRAYER *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands***

*Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;*

*Make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Jesus,*

*Till I'm gentle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (see insert)

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

CHORAL ANTHEM "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Perry Francisco

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega — he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see evermore and evermore. O that birth forever blessed, when a virgin, blest with grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race; and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore. O ye heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing: powers, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring evermore and evermore. Alleluia! Thee let old man, thee let young man, thee let boys in chorus sing; matrons, virgins, little maidens, with glad voices answering: let their guileless songs re-echo, and the heart its music bring,

evermore and evermore. Christ, to thee, with God the Father and Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be; honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory, alleluia, amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25: 14-30

(The Message Version)

Leader: This is a story about God's abundance. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**God's Story of Abundance—Yours, Mine and Ours:**

SERMON

**"To Be of Use"**

**GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

\*A New Doxology

(words below)

***Gift by gift, week by week,  
Growing Central's what we seek  
Like a garden, so to speak.  
Gonna make it fertile ground.***

***Pledge by pledge, in God's time.  
We will grow and we will climb  
With each step the Kingdom comes  
And God's grace comes tumbling down***

\*Prayer of Pledging

One: God, whose giving knows no ending,

**ALL: We offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;  
we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;  
we offer up ourselves in service and praise.**

One: Receive these gifts by your grace.

**ALL: Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit  
to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

**"What Gift Can We Bring"**

**No. 87**

\*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

"The Grace of the Lord"

Roberta Bitgood

"Danse"

Camille Saint Saens

*Emily Amos, guest organist*