



Central's mission:
Love God, love others, and serve the world

July 5, 2020
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Musical Gift

God and the Nation

Sciveyner

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Miriam Smith

Opening Prayer

Hymn #696 “America the Beautiful”

Bates

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.
3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

Rev. Miriam Smith

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**universal*

Time of Prayer

Rev. Miriam Smith

God of our Mothers and Fathers, whose Almighty Hand hath made and preserved our nation, grant that our people may understand what it is they celebrate each Independence Day. May they remember how bitterly our freedom was won, the down payment that was made for it, the installments that have been made since this Republic was born, and the price that must yet be paid for our liberty. May freedom be seen not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to please to do what is right. May it ever be understood that our liberty is under God and can be found nowhere else. May our faith be something that is not merely stamped upon our coins, but expressed in our lives. Let us, as a nation, not be afraid of standing alone for the rights of all people, and may You bless us and keep us true as You have kept us free. Amen.

(based on a prayer by the former Chaplain of the U.S. Senate Peter Marshall delivered on July 3, 1947)

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.**

Central Reflection

Quay Lively

Children's Message

Debbie Looney

Bible Reading — Luke 10:25-28

Rev. Miriam Smith

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — "What Shall We Do?"

Rev. Miriam Smith

Hymn #662 "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

Montgomery

1. Stand up and bless the Lord, ye people of his choice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.
2. Though high above all praise, above all blessing high,
who would not fear his holy name, and laud and magnify?
3. O for the living flame from his own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire, and wing to heaven our thought!
4. God is our strength and song, and his salvation ours;
then be his love in Christ proclaimed with all our ransomed powers.
5. Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless his glorious name, henceforth forevermore.

Musical Gift

Hold Strong the Flags of Freedom

Hughes

Bible Reading for July 12

Romans 8:31-39 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Discussion Questions

As you prepare for worship this week, here are some questions to ponder:

• *We know God loves us, but have you felt that love recently?* • *When was the last time you felt sure of the love God has for you? Were you out in nature or with special people in your life?* • *How do you find you are best able to connect with God?*

If you have thoughts you would like to share, send them to Pastor Miriam at miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com.



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



616 Jackson Street
Decatur, Alabama 35601
(256) 353-6941

CUMC@CentralUnitedMethodist.com
<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centralunitedmethodist