



# Central United Methodist Church of Colorado Springs

*"A Place to Begin...Belong...Become"*

**THE CENTRAL FAMILY OF FAITH  
GATHERED IN PRAISE AND CELEBRATION**

Rev. Debra Wacker

**Sunday, May 14, 2023, 10:00 am**



As a mother  
comforts her child,  
**so will I comfort you.**

ISAIAH 66:13

## Always Be Ready – A Living Hope

<b>Prelude</b>	"I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing" arr. M. Hayes	Kim Crom
<b>Welcome</b>		Rev. Deb Wacker
<b>Church Opportunities</b>		Joyce Witt
<b>*Hymn of Praise</b>	"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"	UMH #302
<b>*Call to Worship</b>		Joyce Witt
<b>Leader:</b>	Transforming God, you have taken the world's darkness and re-created a world filled with the joy of light and hope.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Come and hear the good news of God's love for all creation.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	Restoring God, you have turned defeat into sudden victory, and re-created a world filled with the joy of peace and shalom.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Come and hear the good news of God's awesome powers.</b>	
<b>Leader:</b>	Renewing God, we respond to your mighty deeds with songs of praise, worship and thankful prayers. You alone are God!	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Come and hear the good news of God's blessings on us all. Glory and honor, power and dominion belong to God alone. Amen.</b>	
<b>Choral Response</b>		Chancel Choir
<b>Children's Message</b>		Karen Hobson
<b>Reading of the Psalms</b>	Psalm 66:8-20	Joyce Witt
<b>Prayers of the People</b>		Rev. Deb
	<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	
	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 forever. Amen.	
<b>Choral Response</b>		Chancel Choir
<b>*Prayer of Thanksgiving</b>		Rev. Deb
<b>Offertory</b>	"This Is My Father's World" arr. R. Hughes	Kim Crom

**\*Doxology** "Bind Us Together" UMH #186  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

**\*Hymn of Preparation:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UMH #420

**Scripture** 1 Peter 3:13-22 Joyce Witt

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Leader: This is a Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Always Be Ready – A Living Hope" Rev. Deb

**\*Mother's Choice Singalong** Beginning with "Battle Hymn of the Republic" UMH #717  
vs. 1 & 5

**\*Benediction of the People** Rev. Deb

**Choral Response** Chancel Choir

**Postlude** "What A Savior" J. Jones Kim Crom

(Please remain seated until the music has stopped. The service is still being streamed live on zoom.)

\*Stand as you wish

**\*Hymn of Praise** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" UMH #302

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's the victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

**\*Hymn of Preparation:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UMH #420

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

**\*Closing Hymn** "Battle Hymn of the Republic" UMH #717 vs. 1 & 5

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;  
his truth is marching on.
5. He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,  
he is wisdom to the mighty, he is honor to the brave;  
so the world shall be his footstool, and the soul of wrong his slave,  
Our God is marching on.

*Refrain*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!*  
*Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

**WE ARE LOYAL TO OUR CHURCH BY OUR**

**PRAYERS:** Angie Edwards' nephew Christopher Roberts; Deb Perkins' sister-in-law Ellen, and our "WAVES," our country and its leaders.

**Serving in mission:** Kutela Katembo: Missionary in Angola, Africa  
Our World: Turkey, Syria, Russia, and Ukraine

**PRESENCE:** Sanctuary 82, Fellowship Hall 3, Online 7, Nursery 8 **Total: 100**

<b>GIFTS:</b>	May 7 <sup>th</sup>	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	April 9 <sup>th</sup>
	\$8,742.00	\$4,833.00	\$3,560.00	\$2,708.00	\$5, 015.25

**SERVICE:** Thank you to Pat Dudgeon for coordinating two weeks of IHN hosting for homeless families, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES**

**Food Gifts in May:** *Let's bring what they need!* And the pantry at Mercy's Gate needs **EVERYTHING'!!** Please bring soup, canned veggies and fruits, cereal, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, baby food, diapers, paper products, hygiene items ... you name it; **THEY NEED IT!** Please place donations in the cart in the entry on any Sunday or weekday. **Thanks for sharing.**

**VBS VOLUNTEERS** We are looking for your help with VBS! VBS this year will be Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until noon. Please talk with Adrienne Schipfer at 640-6397 or [mschipfer@yahoo.com](mailto:mschipfer@yahoo.com) about how you would like to get involved with this fantastic and fun outreaching mission. You don't need previous experience or any special skills, we provide all the training and information you need, but be prepared to have fun as you help these children grow their faith! Monumental VBS Orientation will be held at CUMC on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm.

**Together we can make a difference in the life of a child in our neighborhood and community.**

**MAY MISSION FOCUS:**  
**Mission Medical Center**

In 1998, Marcella Ruch, a member of St. Paul's UMC, was inspired to find a way of providing free medical care for uninsured, low-income men and women in Colorado Springs. She started in one room with one doctor who volunteered his services.

Today, Marcella's dream has grown into the Mission Medical Center, a faith-based clinic that embraces the whole patient by serving all segments of the underserved population with compassion, respect, integrity and diversity. Their health care services include **basic primary care, dental, optometry, behavioral health, diabetes management, over the counter and prescription medication.**

Mission Medical Center is **staffed by volunteers.** Their funding comes only through churches, foundations, businesses and individuals. They receive no government funds or insurance reimbursement. If you're able to help this excellent ministry, please make checks payable to Central UMC, designated "MMC."

**VOCAL FUSION SPRING CONCERT** on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 pm at St. Paul's UMC, 2111 Carlton Ave, Colorado Springs, CO

