

February 12, 2017

*Truth can be told in an instant; forgiveness can be offered spontaneously, but reconciliation is the work of lifetimes and generations.* Krista Tippett

**PRELUDE** Three settings of *New Britain*  
A. Hailstork, G. Near, R.A. Hobby

*Before the candles are lit, please greet your neighbors with God's hospitality.  
Once they are glowing, please celebrate your prayers with God.  
When they are extinguished, carry God's light into the world.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHORAL INTROIT** *Greeting Song* Traditional Ghana

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Sing praise to the God who reigns above.  
**People: With healing balm my soul God fills,**  
Leader: And every faithless murmur stills.  
**All: To God all praise and glory.**

**\*HYMN** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* red # 20

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION** Claire Houston

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*At the conclusion of Joys and Concerns the children will leave to go to "The Promised Land" as the congregation sings the first verse of On River Jordan's Banks I Stand.*

*On River Jordan's banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye  
Upon the fair and happy land where my possessions lie  
I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land  
Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land*

**MORNING PRAYERS**

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Gracious God, we confess to you that we grow weary in following Christ and doing your good will. We become lost in our own agendas and priorities; we often desire glory for families and ourselves. Forgive us. Open our hearts and minds to your good news.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness  
Pastoral Prayer  
Silent Prayer**

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

**Congregational Response** # 769

*Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

**CHORAL ANTHEM** *Give Your Holy Spirit into our Hearts* Tallis

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 5: 21-37 The Message

**SERMON** **GROW UP!**

**\*HYMN** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* black # 547

**OFFERING**

**Invitation**

**Offertory Anthem** *We're a Fellowship of Believers* Jay Althouse

**\*Doxology (unison)**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,  
One God triune whom we adore. Amen.***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*HYMN** *Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers* black # 397

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Threefold Amen* # 812

**POSTLUDE** *Mit Freuden zart* H. Walcha  
*We invite you to remain quietly and celebrate the conclusion of worship in the postlude.*

\*Please stand if you are comfortable.

We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful.  
If you are new to the community, we invite you to make this your church home.

*Please stay after worship for refreshments and fellowship  
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.*

**In our Service Today**

**Preacher:** Rev. Lori J. Souder  
**Organist:** Larry Schipull  
**Choir Director:** Cheryl Cobb  
**Greeters:** Don Sibley and Jennett Teece  
**Reader:** Bill Giles  
**Head Deacon:** Karen Anderson  
**Head Usher:** Doug Smith

The **Flower and Nominating Teams** will host Coffee Hour during February.



***Make Center Church Your Sacred Home***

**THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH**

**Ministers:** All Church Members  
**Senior Minister:** Rev. Lori J. Souder  
**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Charles P. Blakney

Christian Education Program

**Children:** Martha Guild  
**Youth:** Claire Houston  
**Adult:** Randy Purinton and  
Betsy Bergen, Team Chairs

Music Program

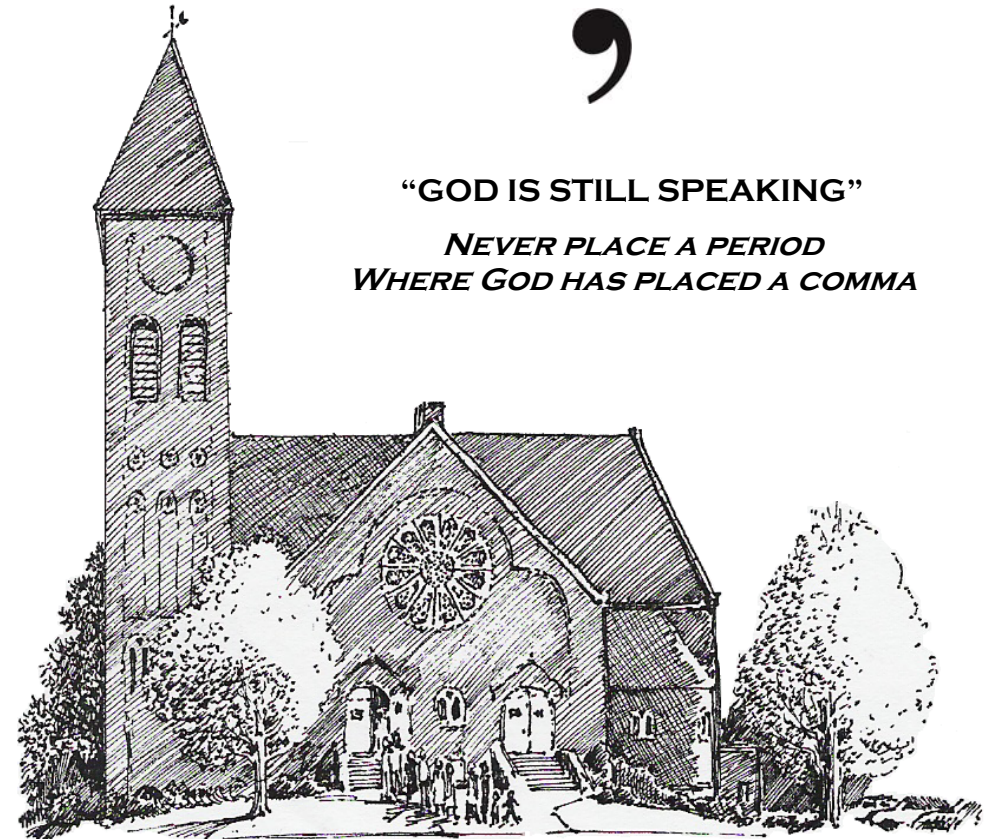
**Organist:** Larry Schipull  
**Choir Director:** Cheryl Cobb  
**Associate in Music:** Cynthia Morrell

**Office Administrator:** Cynthia Jubinville  
**Sexton:** Robert Farman

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**“GOD IS STILL SPEAKING”**

***NEVER PLACE A PERIOD  
WHERE GOD HAS PLACED A COMMA***



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

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*The two center sections of the sanctuary are equipped with a hearing loop. Turn on the T-coil in your hearing aid and sit in one of these sections for better hearing.*