

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Stewardship Sunday № November 13th, 2022 № 11 A.M.

Worship Guide

Justice, Kindness, and Humility

Micah 6:8

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

Please silence all mobile devices.

→ Indicates Music Selection.

↑ An invitation to stand.

Gathering Music $^{\darkowney}$ $_{\darkowney}$

Pachelbel Medley

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude to Worship

"Sortie on 'National Hymn"

Words of Welcome

↑ Call to Community

Based on Psalm 134

Everyone who serves God come and offer thanks.

Thank you God for your loving presence!

Everyone who has gathered in this place, lift your hands and praise God.

Thank you God for your loving presence in this place!

Shout praises to God for you are God's servants, so shout praises.

Thank you God for your love to others!

All who serve in this place, who serve our God, come and shout praises.

Thank you God for your love that we can share!

Praise the name of our God who is kind and good.

Thank you God for your love endures forever!

↑ Sharing the Peace

↑Opening Hymn^{\(\frac{1}{2}\)}

"Awake, Awake to Love and Work" NCH Hymnal #89 (Black)

Litany for Using Our Gifts

Spirit of God, your love is all about us.

Wherever we turn, we are overwhelmed by your bounty.

How can we thank you enough for all your gifts to us?

Your gracious goodness towards us never ends.

We have not earned it.

We cannot repay it.

It flows over us and around us.

It never leaves us, though sometimes we fail to recognize its presence.

We live surrounded by your love.

Just as a fish lives in the sea,

We lose awareness that you give us life.

We so easily take your love as our right.

We forget that relationship with you that keeps our faithful life invigorated.

As if, unlike fish, we had forgotten how to swim!

Loving God, teach us your ways again.

Draw us back into rhythm with your will.

We regret our wandering attention to you.

We know we are living in disharmony with you and with your plan for our world.

Forgive us and restore us again, we pray.

Renew us, restore and reconcile us, we ask....

You call forth from us a total response of every part of our life.

You draw out from us our latent talents, our every gift.

You help us offer our contributions in confidence, in company with other people.

We are excited to discover how our various abilities complement and complete a whole unity. Together we catch a vision of the harmony of every part of creation, knit together according to your will.

Use us, Lord. Help us to say "yes" to you. What would you have us do? We pray in the name of Jesus.

Choral Anthem ♦

"Fairest Lord Jesus"
The Zion Choir

There will be no Children's Church today and children are encouraged to stay throughout the service.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: God is With Us!

Psalm 46: 1-3, 10-11 (NRSVUE) Lector: Barb Hendershot

God is our refuge and strength, a very present [well proved] help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah? "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge [fortress]. Selah.





Second Reading: Generosity Encouraged

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NRSVUE) Rev. Katie Penick

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Through the testing of this ministry, you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Message Prayer Stations

Prayer Station Scripture References:

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for monarchs and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11 – God is our refuge and strength, a very present [well proved] help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah? "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge [fortress]. Selah.

Stewardship Is...

Love in Action

Offertory [♦]

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Offertory Response ♦

The Hymnal (red) #185, Verse 1

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him, crown Him, Crown Him, Lord of all! Amen.

Blessing Our Gifts

Loving God, we present now what we have brought to you. Things that are both visible and invisible. The coins and paper represent our work, and express in a clear and visible way our love and thanks. But we also bring as an offering the fragile dreams and hopes that we have. These invisible gifts are what sustain our lives. Receive all that we have brought in love, O God. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

↑ Koinonia Hymn^{\(\frac{1}{2}\)}

"O for a World" NCH #575 (Black Hymnal)

Invitation

The Story

Sharing the Meal [♦]

"Joy of Every Longing Heart"

All bread on the communion table is gluten-free to be inclusive of all God's children. God's table is open to all! Anyone who desires to participate in communion is welcome to do so. The communion table offers a choice of wine or grape juice and gluten-free bread for all.



Prayer of Our Savior

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 and ever. Amen.

MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH

↑ Closing Hymn [♦]

"Lead on Eternal Sovereign" TNC Hymnal #573 (Black)

Sending Forth

Prelude to Service

↑

"Now Thank We All Our God"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



Totenfest Sunday - Next Sunday

Throughout Christian history, the church has and continues to remember and celebrate the lives of faithful people who have went home with the Lord. Totenfest is a distinctive practice that grows out of the Evangelical tradition of the United Church of Christ. Although the name Totenfest is unknown to many in the UCC, its importance as a special time of remembrance that continues within our heritage. It is a way of remaining related to our deceased loved ones, as the process of grieving and remembering are vital to our spiritual health. Totenfest is a German word that means "Feast of the Dead" or "Festival for the Dead." It is observed on the last Sunday of the church year, right before Advent begins. Traditionally, this was also the time of clearing gardens and fields of the summer's growth in preparation for winter. To this day, Totenfest in parts of Germany is the day families visit the graves of loved ones to clean off the summer flowers and cover the graves with evergreen boughs for the winter.

If you have not added your loved one(s) who have went home with the Lord in the past year to the remembrance list do so today so we can prepare for this special time of remembrance.

Let us remember our loved ones as a faith community next week during worship.

Pledge Cards Due by December 4th

Pledge cards are available in today's service, please prayerfully consider how you may support the church in daily outreach and ministry programming with your time, talent, and treasures. It is requested that pledge cards be turned into the Church Office by December 4th. Thank you for your support!

December 4th.

HARC's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

HARC is pleased to once again offer a unique and uplifting interfaith service, welcoming all members of the community to join together in giving thanks. Enjoy special music, readings and reflections from different faith traditions, and an opportunity to reflect on gratitude in our own lives. The service is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken of shelf-stable food for a local food pantry or monetary donations (made out to HARC). Reserved seating for social distancing will be available. This event is offered by the Hagerstown Area Religious Council with thanks to St. Ann Catholic Church located at 1525 Oak Hill Avenue in Hagerstown, for hosting this year. For more information, contact 301-842-4272 or director@harccoalition.org.

Cold Weather Shelter Donations Needed

The R.E.A.C.H. Cold Weather Shelter is in need of towels to hand out to guests for hygiene time. As the nights continue to get colder, R.E.A.C.H. is already filling up to capacity. Towels, washcloths, socks, and underwear are items always in need at cold weather shelters. Drop your donations off at the Church Office.

Save the Date(s)!

- No Book Club in November -- Join us on Dec 9th instead for our final meeting of 2022.
- ❖ Giving Tuesday is November 29th -- Consider making a gift to the Church or to Tuesday's Supper.
- ❖ Congregational Meeting is on December 11th. After the meeting, plan to stay for cookies, carols, and cards. Bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share as we sing and prepare Christmas cards.

A Journey into the Spiritual Practice of Generosity Around the Table of Jesus Lesson 3: People from East and West and North and South Eat Bread in the Realm of God

A UCC Small Group and Family Unit Stewardship Study

Scripture: Luke 13:22-30

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then in reply he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Prayer:

Begin your study with prayer. You may want to say something like, "Thank You, God, for glimpses of what Your heavenly realm will be like. Amen."

Reflection:

By now you should be more familiar and comfortable with the concept of Lectio Divina. Close your eyes as you hear this scripture read. You may feel some startling emotions as you listen – fear, dismay, bewilderment. Don't fight them or try to deny them – the Holy Spirit wants you to experience something. Again, after a second reading, think:

- What word(s) or phrase(s) stood out to you?
- Did you hear something today that you have never heard before in this scripture?
- Why do you think the Holy Spirit emphasized those words to you? (Remember, everyone will most likely hear something different, and that is perfectly fine.)

Let everyone share as he or she wishes

Discussion:

These are difficult days for people who long to see God's Realm of love and light become real among us. Unfortunately in our country, there are widening divisions and heightening hostilities. Racial tensions are rampant. Economic disparity is more stark than ever. As we maneuvered through the COVID-19 pandemic, we found ourselves in social isolation and furious debate over masks and vaccines. Even more disheartening is the idea that some believe they alone have the correct answers to all of life's problems and everyone else is wrong – consigned to the outer darkness. There are some who believe and behave as though they have exclusive access to Jesus and they don't have to share him with those whom they deem "unworthy." What does Jesus mean when he talks about the "narrow door"? Does it perhaps mean examining the choices you make in light of the knowledge of what God's Realm entails? Ron Allen says, "The 'Yes' to the Realm of God does mean that one says 'No' to many things that are associated with the wider world – e.g., worshipping idols and going along with the values and behaviors that go along with empire." How can your life choices demonstrate that the Realm of God is not a narrow space but is infinite, with room for all? Can or should these choices include the car you drive, the food you eat, the home you choose, the things you buy? These questions offer an opportunity to talk about stewardship of the earth – caring for it, restoring it, saving it. It is from the earth that we get the bread of life – "seed, scattered and



sown/wheat, gathered and grown." Vineyards provide the wine in the cup. Why is it important for us to acknowledge the effects of climate change on the earth? Think about how it will affect our sharing of communion.

Stewardship is not hoarding. We must never say, "I got mine – now you get yours – but don't take anything of mine!" If we learn anything from Jesus Christ, it is that he wants all people to come into the kingdom, even as he acknowledged that some will not make it. Have you ever considered that we are stewards of Christ's message of love and redemption? What are we to do with that message? Do we hoard it and hide it? Do we decide some people aren't worthy of being part of Jesus' family, and so we ignore them and leave them hanging? How can we learn to share Jesus' message even with those whom we disagree or whom we judge harshly by our human standards? When Jesus says people from all over –east, west, north, south – will eat in the kingdom of plenty, do you envision people quite different from you sitting at the table with you? Does this image daunt or excite you?

We are all in this together. No one of us is more or less worthy than any other one of us to be part of God's beautiful future. God's people are scattered all over the world. We should look forward with joyful anticipation to the time when there are no longer any divisions among us and we are all one, walking in the light of Christ in a new world of peace, harmony, and justice.

Action:

Is there a homeless shelter in your city? Some of these facilities invite churches to come and serve a meal. See if this is a possibility for your group or family unit. Ask other members of your church to join you at the shelter. After the meal is served, join the people who are staying at the shelter. Sit and eat with them – break bread with them – and listen to their stories without judging. Be sympathetic and open to learning about their experiences. Offer to share a prayer with them if they wish. Remember, Jesus welcomes them into the Realm of God, too. If there is no shelter in your city, you can ask a local school if you might be able to have lunch with some of the children. Again, sit and eat with them and break bread with them. Be open to listening to their stories and learning about their experiences. Remember, Jesus welcomes them into the Realm of God, too. You can be a steward for the shelter or the school by giving physical resources to them: toiletries, clothing, books, Bibles. (You can collect these as a family mission project or possibly organize a church wide project with your fellow church members.) And you can be a steward for the shelter or the school by sharing your time and talents with them – tutoring, mentoring, teaching ESL classes, teaching a new skill such as cooking or sewing.

Closing Prayer:

Ask God to help you broaden your idea of what living in the heavenly realm will be like. Earnestly admit that sometimes you hoard – and hide – the message of acceptance for all, and sometimes you have a narrow view of who will be allowed into the kindom (a place for family). Ask for God's forgiveness and for God to heal your heart. Pray for a chance to share more tangibly in creating a place of welcome at God's table of blessing. Amen.



Our Joys & Concerns

Praying with One Another

Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communicationwith God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray for all those in our communities that we have touched or that have touched us and those that simply crossed our paths. Let us also remember to pray for peace and safety in Ukraine and around the world and to pray with and for our Zion siblings: Eric B., Holly Bell, Naomi Brackett, Jeff Cannedy, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Cisco, Kim & Bill Cook, Ronald Curry Sr., Joanna and Derrick Garber, Carol Garland, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Beth Gross, Hart Family, Jim & Donna Hatfield, Sherry Hockman, Lyn Hoffmaster, Jane Hollabaugh, Paul Hose, Ann Kalinoski, Rhondda Kane, Alyssa Kline, Dee Krause, LaBombard Family, Sofia Martinez, Dee McGlauckin, Barry & Amy Newlin, Annie Penick, James Penick, Mark Plotner, Colleen Rand, David Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Verna Rosenfield, Claudia Ruth, Norm & Lori Schmidt, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Thelma Summers, Tracy Roach Walls, Eleanor Wible, Eric Wolbring, Robert Yeoman, and Mia.

*Prayer Requests remain active on the prayer list for 4-weeks unless renewed.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to **Jane Hershey** (Nov 13th), **Bill Brewer** (Nov 13th), **Curtis Nilson** (Nov 13th), **Beth Gross** (Nov 14th), **Brandie Burchard** (Nov 15th), **Betty Patterson** (Nov 16th), and **Kim Cook** (Nov 18th). May this year of your life/lives be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of YOU. We hope and pray that this year of your life is filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial that may arise, may you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.



Next Sunday: Calvin Livingston

Lector Ministry Schedule

Face Masking and Social Distancing Guidelines



Please continue to socially distance when interacting with those outside of your immediate family, sit in alternating pews as indicated, and mask when not seated for worship. These actions help show our love for one another in action and keeps our doors open for all.

Daily COVID Rate in Wash. Co: 7.7% as of Nov 7th (*Wash Co. Coronavirus Dashboard)
7-day COVID average for Wash. Co: 8.7% with 19 hospitalizations as of Nov 9th (*Meritus Health)
Human MonkeyPox Emergency: 723 cases throughout the state of MD (*MD Health Dept)

Important Dates This Week

Today: Barb Hendershot

Search & Call Team Meeting – November 14th, 5:30pm (Burhans Room)

December Newsletter Article Submission Deadline – November 15th, Noon

Tuesday's Supper & 1-Stop Shop — November 15th from 5-6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday Lunch Bunch – November 17th at 11:30am (Hybrid)

www.zionreformed.church/thursday

Staff Meeting – November 17th, 12:30pm (Burhans Room)

Choir Practice – November 17th at 4pm (Chapel)

Downtown Hagerstown 4-H Club — November 17th at 4:30pm (Burhans Room) See Kim Ridenour for more information



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"Toccata in E minor" (P.462) - Composed by Johann Pachelbel (1903 or before), @Public Domain. *Source(s): IMSLP (imslp.org).

"Praeludium in D minor" (P.406) – Composed by Johann Pachelbel (1903 or before), ©Public Domain. *Source(s): IMSLP (imslp.org).

Prelude to Worship: "Sortie on 'National Hymn'" – One License Song# 1031335 – Arranged by Lani Smith, ©1980 by Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of the Lorenz Corporation. Based on the tune setting, "National Hymn" by George William Warren (1876), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Lorenz (lorenz.com) and Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Opening Hymn: "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" – CCLI Song# 4509303 – Tune: "Morning Song" by C. Winfred Douglas (1940), ©Public Domain. Harmonization by *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 by The Church Pension Fund. Lyrics by Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy (1921), ©Public Domain. Lyrics adapted by *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 by The Church Pension Fund. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (NCH #89) (hymnary.org).

Choral Anthem: "Fairest Lord Jesus" – One License Song# 86890 – Composed by Derek Hakes, revised by Craig Courtney, ©2003 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc, all rights reserved. Lyrics by Munster Gesangbuch (1677) and translated by Joseph August Seiss (1873), ©Public Domain. Performed by the Zion Choir (vocals), C.M. Moblard (pianist), and led by Byron L. Stay (Choir Director) of Zion Reformed UCC, all rights reserved. *Source(s): Beckenhorst Press (beckenhorstpress.com).

Choral Response: "Thy Word" – CCLI Song# 14301 – Arranged by Keith Phillips, ©Unknown. Tune by Michael W. Smith (1984), ©1984 by Meadowgreen Music Company, a division of The Sparrow Corp. Lyrics by Amy Grant (1984), ©1984 by Meadowgreen Music Company, a division of The Sparrow Corp. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (Chalice Hymnal #326) (hymnary.org).

Offertory Music: "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" – CCLI Song# 33368 – Tune, "Materna" by Samuel A. Ward (1882), ©Public Domain. Commonly set to the lyrics, "America the Beautiful" by Katherine Lee Bates (1893), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Offertory Response: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" – CCLI Song# 584594 – Tune, "Miles Lane" by William Shrubsole (1779), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Edward Perronet (1780), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (The Hymnal #185) (hymnary.org).

Koinonia Hymn: "O for a World" – XXXXXX – Tune: "Azmon" by Carl G. Glaser (1828), adapted by Lowell Mason (1839), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Miriam Therese Winter (1987), ©1987 by Medical Mission Sisters (medicalmissionsisters.org). Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (NCH #575) (hymnary.org).

Communion Music: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* – One License Song# 1146579 – Arrangement by Mark Hayes, ©2010 by Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of the Lorenz Corporation. Based on the 19th century American folk tune, "*Battle Hymn of the Republic,*" attributed to William Steffe, ©Public Domain, and lyrics by Julia Ward Howe (1862), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Lorenz (lorenz.com) and Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Closing Hymn: "Lead on Eternal Sovereign" – One License Song# 15878 – Tune: "Lancashire" by Henry T. Smart (1836), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Ernest W. Shurtleff (1887), ©Public Domain. Lyrics adapted by *The New Century Hymnal,* ©1995 by The Pilgrim Press. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (NCH #573) (hymnary.org).

Prelude to Service: "Now Thank We All Our God" — One License Song# 113791 - Arranged for organ by Virgil Fox, ©1959 (renewed 1987) by The H.W. Gray Co. All rights assigned to and controlled by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. Based on "Cantata No. 79 (BWV 79)" by J.S. Bach, ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): IMSLP (imslp.org) and JW Pepper (jwpepper.com).

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Liturgy: Adapted by Rev. Katie Penick from Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (presbyterian.org.nz).



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