

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 19, 2023 11:00am

“God is telling us to seek the grace he gave David, not the works David did, as these are the result of God’s Grace” Mark Ballenger



**WALKING IN THE
WILDERNESS!**



Our Mission Statement

To share the gospel of Christ in such a way that we find God, grow our faith, discover our purpose, and make a difference.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Walking in the Wilderness

March 19, 2023 ☽ 11:00 A.M.

Meditation of the Week: They say to serve is to love. I think to serve is to heal, too. ~ Viola Davis ~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

** All who are able may stand*

Gathering Music "Praeludium und Fuge" Composed by Vincent Lubeck

Ringing of the Bells

Prelude "Crown Him with Many Crowns" Composed by George J. Elvey

Words of Welcome

*Call to Community

Come, walk in green pastures.

We follow the Shepherd.

Come, lie down in green pastures.

We trust the Shepherd.

Come, dine at the table of abundance.

We are fed by the Shepherd.

Come, dwell in God's house.

We live in the Shepherd's care.

*Opening Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" Red #1

Call To Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

God of surprises, we know that we do not often perceive the world as you do. We look to the grand gestures and unreachable standards. In spite of our misguided reach towards perfection, you give us glimpses of your grandeur and grace. Surprise us yet again this day, O God, that in our complacency which allows us to drift towards the same old ways of faith that we may be transformed anew. Provide us with a new cup of oil that we may be anointed by your love so that we may set out into your world to bless and anoint others. In the name of the One whose love and peace make all things new we pray. Amen.

~silence is kept~

Words of Blessing

Beloved, receive the anointing of God's tender love and forgiveness this day. For God's care and compassion for you abides in your heart today and always.

We rise and set out restored and renewed. Amen.

Children's Time

Walking in the Wilderness

Special Music

"Serenade To Spring"

Barb Hendershot & Amber Nilson

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Lector Amber Nilson

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Choral Response

"Jesus Remember Me"

**Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom**

Second Reading

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can

a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So, they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

The Message	With Eyes Wide Open	Rev. Katie Penick
*Hymn of Praise	"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"	Black #472
Invitation to Give		
Offertory		
Choral Response	"We Praise Thee O God"	Red #19 verse 1

**We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore thee,
We bless Thy holy Name, glad praises we sing.**

Blessing Our Gifts

Generous God, you remind us that you "anoint our heads with oil" and that our "cup overflows" with your abundance. We do not take for granted all that you provide. Take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of your hurting world. May your cup of love overflow and abide with the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and despised, so that we may all be made whole. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Hymn of Preparation

"Amazing Grace"

Black #541

Invitation

The Story

Blessing the Meal

Prayer after Communion

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.

*Closing Hymn

"Sanctuary"

John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,

pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,

pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

*Sending Forth

Postlude to Service

"Trumpet Tune in C"

Composed by David Lasky

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with 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 around the world and to pray with and for our Zion siblings: Holly Bell, Naomi Brackett, Jane Bowen, Brenda Bowers, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Kim & Bill Cook, Ronald Curry Sr., Garber Family, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Teddy Grogan, Beth Gross, Sherry Hockman, Lyn Hoffmaster, Jane Hollabaugh, Paul Hose, Michael Jones, Ann Kalinoski, Rhonda Kane, Alyssa Kline, Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston, Anthony Martin, Sofia Martinez, Dee McGlauckin, Mary Murphy, Barry & Amy Newlin, Annie Penick, James Penick, Sue Penick, Mark Plotner, Michelle Porter, David Ridenour, Mackenzie Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Verna Rosenfield, Brianna Russell, Jeff Shade, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Danny & Julia Springer, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, Martha Tallant, Tracy Roach Walls, Eleanor Wible, Eric Wolbring, Robert Yeoman

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

Lector for this week is Amber Nilson, next week is Barb Hendershot.

Ushers for this week are Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, TBD.

Next week ushers are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz..



Happy Birthday to Kent Shaffer 3/20, Calvin Livingston 3/23, and A J Atwell 3/25.
Happy Anniversary to John and Barbara Schnebly 3/22.

Happening this week:

- 3/21 Tuesday Supper and 1 Stop Shop 5:00-6:00 downstairs in Fellowship Hall
- 3/22 Wednesday Lunch Bunch Study Group 11:30 – Last meeting until April 13th when we switch back to Thursdays.
Lenten Bible Study at Christ Reformed 12:00
Lenten Potluck and Service 6:30
- 3/23 Choir Practice 4:00
4-H Club meeting 4:30-6:00
- 3/25 Zion Book Club 7:00



Choir practice started last week. If you like to sing, you don't have to be a professional, why not join the choir. See Byron for more information.

Bravo ZION Reformed Walkers! The team of 6 walkers, Barb Hendershot, Curtis Nilson, Amber Nilson, Brynn Nilson, Kim Ridenour, and Carroll Sager, raised \$925 for REACH during the Coldest Night of the Year walk. Additional donations are being accepted through March 31. Next year's event will be held on February 24, 2024. Please join us!

Service Credits
March 19

Adapted from <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2>, / <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4556/worship-connection-april-25-2021>

Gathering music: Praeludium und Fuge. Composed by Vincent Lubeck. © Belwin Mills Publishing Corp. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Crown Him with Many Crowns. Tune: Diamata. Composed by George J. Elvey. Arr. by Jason D. Payne. © 2017 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Holy, Holy, Holy. Red 1. Tune: Nicea. Composed by John B. Dykes (1861). Words by Reginald Heber (1826). Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand. NCH 472. Composed by Thomas A. Dorsey (1932). Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Amazing Grace. NCH 541. Composed by John Newton (1779). Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Special Music : Serenade To Spring. Composed by Rolf Lovland. ©Universal Music Publishing 1995. Performed by Barbara Hendershot and Amber Nilson.

Offertory: Christ lag in Todesbanden. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1949 by G. Schirmer, Inc. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Communion: My Heart is Filled with Longing.

Have Mercy, Lord. Both composed by J. S. Bach. © 1949 by G. Schirmer, Inc. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Trumpet Tune in C. Composed by David Lasky. © 1990 by C. P. P. Belwin, Inc. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

201 North Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Office Hours: 8:30-12:30, Monday through Friday

Facebook: @ZionRUCC | YouTube: Zion Reformed UCC

Web: www.zionreformed.church

Email: zionrucc@myactv.net Phone: 301.739.7244



Rev Katie Penick, Interim Minister

Phone: 240.418.8028 | Email: zionruccpastor@myactv.net

Rae Smith, Church Administrative Assistant

Phone: 301.739.7244 | Email: zionrucc@myactv.net