

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2023 10:00am

"Today, take some time to thank the Lord that He cares personally for you."



WALKING WITH PURPOSE 



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.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Walking With Purpose

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

** All who are able may stand*

Gathering Music

"Praeludium und Fuge e-moll"

Nicolaus Bruhns

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

"Fanfare on "Duke Street""

John Hutton

Words of Welcome

*Call to Community

based on Psalm 121

People of God, let us gather to worship and praise God's holy name.

I give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart. I will glorify your name forever!

For great is your steadfast love for me.

You have delivered my soul from the depths.

God says, know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

*Opening Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Red #185

First Reading

Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Children's Time

Children will be dismissed for Children's Church

Special Music

"Nocturne Op. 55 No. 2" by Frederic Chopin

Joel Ross (pianist)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Second Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

The Message

Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

*Hymn

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Red #278

Prayer of Invocation:

Let us pray

People: Sower of the field, you love with tenderness and zeal. Be gracious with us. Move in our hearts. Breathe through the words we hear, the songs we share, and the burdens we carry, until we discover our purpose in your liberating love. Shine warmly on our seedling hearts, that we might grow abundant in the fertile soil of your heavenly realm, in time bearing the fruit of mercy and grace so it might be shared with others. Amen.

Offertory

"O Thou of God the Father."

J. S. Bach

Choral Response

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Amen.

Blessing our gifts

Will you join me in a prayer of dedication for our gifts?

Loving and Ever Present God, receive these tithes and offerings, our worship, and our very lives to the service of your Word and work in the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

"Forward Through the Ages"

Black #377

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

Postlude:

Festive Voluntary on "Lancashire."

David Lasky



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 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: Bruce Albright, Janis Albright, Joanne Albright, Holly Bell, Naomi Brackett, Jane Bowen, Brenda Bowers, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Cody Carlin family, Kim & Bill Cook, Tony Cooper, Ronald Curry Sr., Luke Edwards, Garber Family, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Teddy Grogan, Beth Gross, Vicky Hastings, Lyn Hoffmaster, Jane Hollabaugh, Paul Hose, Brian Johnson, Ann Kalinoski, Rhonda Kane, Alyssa Kline, Dee Krause, Peggy Ledin, Bobby Lowman, Peggy Lowman, Jerri Livingston, Anthony Martin, Sofia Martinez, Dee McGlauckin, Teresa Moats, Heather Morgan, Mary Murphy, Barry & Amy Newlin, Annie Penick, James Penick, The Family of Sue Penick, Mary & George Pietsch, Mark Plotner, Michelle Porter, David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Verna Rosenfield, Brianna Russell, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Jeff Shade, Rae Smith, Danny & Julia Springer, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, Martha Tallant, Tracy Roach Walls, Haywood Watts, Eleanor Wible, Eric Wolbring, Robert Yeoman.

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

The lector this week is Wells Ridenour. The lector next week is Amber Nilson.
Ushers for this week are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons.



Next week's ushers are Burnie Clutz, Susan Clutz, Becky Hohman, and John Schnebly.



Birthdays	Domenick Gerlando	7/24
	Robert Prince	7/25

Upcoming Events:

- 7/25 Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm (Downstairs in Fellowship Hall)
- 7/27 Thursday Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm
- 7/25 Tentative date for Staff Meeting 11:00am
- 7/28 Zion Book Club 7:00pm



Service Credits July 23

Gathering music: Praeludium und Fuge e-moll. Composed by Nicolaus Bruhns. ©1939 by Henry Litloff's Verlag. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Fanfare on "Duke Street." Composed by John Hutton. Arr. by John S. Dixon. © 2019 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name. Red 185. Composed by William Shrubsole (1785). Words by Edward Perronet (1785). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go. Red 278. Composed by Albert L. Peace (1885). Words by George Matheson (1881). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

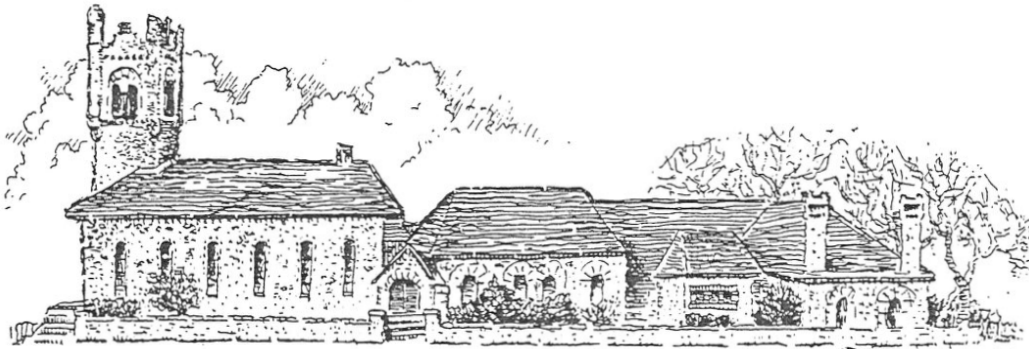
Forward Through the Ages. NCH 377. Composed by Arthur S. Sullivan (1871). Words by Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1908). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Special music: "Nocturne Op. 55 No. 2" by Frederic Chopin. Joel Ross (pianist).

Offertory: "O Thou of God the Father." Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Festive Voluntary on "Lancashire." Arr. by David Lasky. © 2021 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.



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