

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP GUIDE

Fourteenth SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3rd, 2023 @ 10 A.M.



When we all get together, our first thought is that there is not enough for everyone, and we will want to protect ourselves. We'll want to say – only those who have jobs can come, or only those who are sinless can come, or only those who believe what we believe can come. That's our fear speaking, and fear always makes the wine run out. But this is the good news: Jesus says over and over again, "when you come to me—when you bring me what you have, I will transform it—and it will be a banquet. It will be a wedding feast, and you will be wedded to all humanity. And you will be wedded to me."

– The Rev. G. Porter Taylor

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.

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

** All who are able may stand*

Gathering Music

"Early American Hymn-Tune Preludes"

Robert J. Powell

Bells

Greeting, Announcements

Choir rehearsals start September 7th. Anyone interested in singing please contact Byron Stay.

Prelude

"Jubilate"

Benjamin Carr

***Call to Worship**

One: In the light of the morning, God created life.

All: And it was very good.

One: In the heat of the day, God created work.

All: And it was very good.

One: In the cool of the evening, God created rest.

All: And it was very good.

One: Let us celebrate the rhythms of life.

All: Let us celebrate the rhythms of God.

One: Let our worship begin.

All: Alleluia and Amen.

***Hymn**

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

Red #432

Labor Day Prayer (in unison)

**Wonderful God, Mightiest Worker, Parent of the Carpenter Jesus,
we offer prayers for our siblings in labor.**

**As our labor serves others by providing services, goods and profits
may it also serve you in its diligence, dignity and justice.**

**May our employees and employers be guided
by the common good and not selfish interest.**

May justice rule over profit. May safety reign over risk.

May love overwhelm harsh rules.

**Bless us all, living God, and raise up workers clear of mind,
glad to labor in your name**

and striving together to build your Beloved Community. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 3:1-15

Lector: Missie LaBombard

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thornbush. Moses saw—"The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it isn't consumed!" Moses said, "Let me go over and look at this remarkable sight—and see why the bush doesn't burn up!" When YHWH saw Moses coming to look more closely, God called out to him from the midst of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" Moses

answered, "I am here." God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground! "I am the God of your ancestors," the voice continued, "the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!" Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One. Then YHWH said, "I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have heard their cries under those who oppress them; I have felt their sufferings. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey—the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have watched how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, go! I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" God answered, "I will be with you, and this is the sign by which you will know that it is I who have sent you: after you bring my people out of Egypt, you will all worship at this very mountain." "But," Moses said, "when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is this god's name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I AM AS I AM. This is what you will tell the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God spoke further to Moses: "Tell the children of Israel: 'YHWH, the 'I AM,' the God of your ancestors, the God of Sarah and Abraham, of Rebecca and Isaac, of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my Name forever; this is the name you are to remember for all generations.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

"Musings on "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

Robert Lau

Children's Time

Scripture

Romans 12:9-21

The Inclusive Bible

Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect. Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ. Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude toward everyone. Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited. Don't repay evil with evil. Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people. Do all you can to be at peace with everyone. Don't take revenge; leave room, my friends, for God's wrath. To quote scripture, "'Vengeance is mine, I will pay them back,' says our God." But there is more: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them drink. For in doing so, you will heap burning coals upon their heads." Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by doing good.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Message

Where is the Burning

*Hymn

"Now in the Days of Youth"

Red #446

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. Our gifts this morning are one way that we trust God in a world that keeps telling us to be afraid. We let go of thinking that we are on our own and live each day in graceful dependence on God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory

"The Trumpet of Faith"

Edward Broughton

*Offertory Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost (or Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost) **Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Holy God of Sabbath and labor,
the offerings we bring have been earned in a variety of jobs.
It is our intention that all our work should serve your purposes for all your people.
Use these gifts to serve many people in many ways;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn

"*Jesu, Jesu*"

Black #498

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

This is the table, not of the church, but of Christ. It is to be made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time, Come you who seek the greatest of Christ's calls – to love, COME.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Holy God we believe in you for you made the world. You love it. You smile on it. You created human beings each to be different and asked us to get on with each other. You asked us to love each other, and we are here committing ourselves to the task. We believe in Jesus Christ who came among insignificantly and walked among us incognito. Who, to change the world, called disciples friends, and called people away from security. Who befriended those whose company would discredit him; who pardoned those who deserved to be condemned, who spoke the deepest truths; who contradicted common sense by taking on the cross and

taking on the grave and being liberated to live on the third day. This Jesus calls us today, now as then to a life which is absurd by the standards of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit through whom God surprises, disappoints, cajoles and questions us; who is the bringer of strength and source of humor; who leads us to discover the truth we avoid; and we believe that the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of the world and we rejoice that God has made it so.

All: God, with gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful we praise you.

One: For when we were nothing, you made us something; when we had no name and no faith and no future, you called us your children; when we lost our way or turned away, you did not abandon us; when we came back to you, your arms opened wide in welcome. And, look you prepare a table for us offering not just bread, not just wine, but your very self, so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed, and made new again. Unite us in this sacrament that we may become, for you, your body, loving and caring in the world. Until your kingdom comes...Amen.

Words of Institution

Among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "this is my body, it's broken for you – remember me.

And later he took the cup of wine and said, "This is the new relationship with God made possible through blood and resurrection from death. Take this all of you."

Blessing

**All: Loving God,
pour out your Spirit upon us
and on these gifts we share
that we may be one with Christ
in whom you came to be one with us.
Amen.**

The Family Meal

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Charles C. Converse

(Communion Bread is Gluten Free)

Prayer of Commitment (in unison)

Loving Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands, now we put our lives in yours. Take us, shake us, remake us. No longer is what we have been important. It is what, with you, we can be, Starting now.

***Hymn**

"Every time I Feel the Spirit"

Black #282

SENDING FORTH

The love of the faithful Creator,
The peace of the wounded Healer,
The joy of the challenging Spirit,
The hope of the Three in One,
Surround and encourage you,
Today, tomorrow and forever.

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, Holly Bell, Naomi Brackett, Brenda Bowers, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Kim & **Bill Cook**, Ronald Curry Sr., Luke Edwards, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Teddy Grogan, Beth Gross, Sherry Hockman, Brian Johnson, Dee Krause, Bobby Lowman, Peggy Lowman, Jerri Livingston, **Mary Lorfing**, Kim Greene Martin, Sofia Martinez, Dee McGlauckin, Teresa Moats, Heather Morgan, Mary Murphy, Barry & Amy Newlin, Annie Penick, James Penick, **Mary & George Pietsch**, Mark Plotner, Michelle Porter, **David Ridenour**, Wells Ridenour, Rich Robinette, Betsy Roulette, Verna Rosenfield, Brianna Russell, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Jeff Shade, Danny & Julia Springer, Melanie & Wesley (granddaughter and great grandson of Danny & Julia Springer), Mary Stann, Jovan Summers, **Thelma Summers**, Martha Tallant, Tracy Roach Walls, Haywood Watts, Eleanor Wible, Eric Wolbring, Robert Yeoman.

*****New additions to the Prayer List will be printed in bold for the first week.***

The lector this week is Missie LaBombard. The lector next week is Rae Smith.

Ushers for this week are Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Missie LaBombard.

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



Birthdays

- Margaret Wagner 9/4
- Kate Wade 9/7
- Frances Sweigert 9/10
- Robert Barnhart 9/10
- Cooper Green 9/10

Anniversaries

- Julia & Ed Patterson 9/3
- Megan & Mark Shroyer 9/4
- Brandie & Eric Burchard 9/8

Upcoming Events:

- 9/4 Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
- 9/5 Staff Meeting 12:00pm
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm (Downstairs in Fellowship Hall)
- 9/6 Pastoral Relations Team 3:00pm
- 9/7 Executive Team Meeting 2:00pm
Choir Practice 4:00pm
4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm
- 9/9 Easy-cise Class 9:00am
- 9/11 CE team Meeting 5:30pm
Consistory Meeting 7:00pm



9/10 Service time changes back to 11:00am. Rally Day and the start of Sunday School. Pancake breakfast starts at 9:00am and Sunday School classes will start at 9:45am.



Micah's Backpack is collecting Vienna Sausages during the month of September.

Thank you for your help in this outreach ministry.

Your Books Wanted!



Community Book Drive now through September 14

Service Credits September 3

Gathering music: Early American Hymn-Tune Preludes. Arr. by Robert J. Powell. © 1997 by Concordia Publishing House. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Jubilate. Composed by Benjamin Carr. Arr. by Alice Jordan. © 1977 by Broadman Press. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Special Music: Musings on "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder. Traditional spiritual. Arr. by Robert Lau. © 2013 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

Hymns: We Plow the Fields and Scatter. Tune: Wir Pflugen. Composed by Johann A. P. Schultz (1800). Words by Matthias Claudius (1781). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Now in the Days of Youth. Red 446. Tune: Diademata. Composed by George J. Elvey (1868). Words by Walter J. Mathams (1913). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love. NCH 498. Composed by Tom Colvin (1969). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Every Time I Feel the Spirit. NCH 282. African-American spiritual. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Offertory: The Trumpet of Faith. Composed by Edward Broughton. © 2014 by Lorenz Corporation. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Communion: What a Friend We Have in Jesus. Composed by Charles C. Converse. Arr. by Mark Hayes. © 2011 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLU number: 6027869

He Touched Me. Composed by William J. Gather. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Postlude Variations on "Morning Song." Attributed Elkanah Kelsay Dare. Arr. by David Lasky. © 2021 by Lorenz Corporation. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.