

# Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

January 21, 2024

11:00 A.M.

## Third Sunday After Epiphany



### Gathering Music and Bells

*Children of the Heavenly Father  
His Eye is on the Sparrow*

### Greetings, Announcements

### Prelude

*I Come to the Garden Alone*

### \*Call to Worship

**One:** We are in the presence of God together.

**All:** **We are not alone like Jonah.**

**One:** We are companions in the task of witnessing.

**All:** **We are looking at the world together.**

**One:** We are seeing warmth and love.

**All:** **We are vibrant with thanksgiving.**

**One:** We are hearing cries of pain and confusion.

**All:** **We are together crying in anguish and sorrow.**

**One:** We are sharing Good News of peace and comfort.

**All:** **We are sharing our hands, a touch, a love that changes.**

**One:** Our energy in appreciation, our welling eyes of tears,  
our words of Good News, our touch of warmth transforms  
tragedy into wholeness.

**All:** **Thanks be to God for letting us together be the evangelists of the divine Love.  
Amen.**

**Prayer of Hope** (in unison)

*Loving and generous God, you are the font of every blessing, the source of all we have. Your breath gives us life, your love gives us courage and strength, healing and compassion. You care for us like a loving parent and feed our spirits, our minds, and our bodies. We thank you for your abundance given freely to all.*

*But God, forgive us for wanting more, even when we have more than we need. Create in us new hearts to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Help us to know that our abundance is for others' needs. Great Teacher, write your law on our hearts: God's abundance is enough for all if we share.*

**\*Choral Response**

*If You Believe and I Believe* (see insert)

**Reading**

Excerpts from Nan Merrill's Interpretation of Psalm 62

**One:** For You alone my soul waits in silence;

From the Beloved comes my salvation.

Enfolding me with strength and steadfast love,

**All: My faith shall remain firm....**

**One:** In the Silence rests my freedom and my guidance, for You are the Heart of my heart,

**All: You speak to me in the Silence.**

**One:** Trust in Love at all times, O people Pour our your heart to the Beloved;

Let Silence be a refuge for you. ... Once You have spoken,

Twice have I heard;

**All: Our potential gifts belong to You;**

**One:** To You, O render to us all that we offer to You— Fear begets fear,

Love begets love. For You alone my soul waits in silence;

From the Beloved comes Life, Love and Light.

**Word for Children**

**Scripture**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

## **Morning Prayer**

### **The Prayer that Jesus Teaches Us**

### **Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings**

**Call to the Offering**

**Offertory**

*It is Well with My Soul*

**\*Doxology**

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (in unison)

**Luminous God, today you have infused us with your grace and called us to be your light in the world. Send us now into the world and help us to show your glory. With Spirit hope we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*Blessed Assurance*

Black #473

**\*Benediction**

May God provide you with every blessing in abundance,  
So that by always having enough of everything,  
You may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

**Postlude**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

**Congregational Fellowship**

**Service Credits**  
**January 21**

**Gathering music:**        *Children of the Heavenly Father.* Swedish folk song.

*His Eye is on the Sparrow.* Composed by Charles H. Gabriel. Both © 2023 by Lorenz Publishing House. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion UCC.

**Prelude:**                *I Come to the Garden Alone.* Composed by C. Austin Miles. © 2023 by Lorenz Publishing House. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion UCC.

**Hymns:**                 *Be Now My Vision.* NCH 451. Tune: Slane. Traditional Irish melody. Ancient Irish text trans. By Mary E. Byrne (1905). Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion UCC.

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus.* NCH 506. Tune: Erie. Composed by Charles C. Converse (1868). Words by Joseph Scriven (1855). Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion UCC.

*Blessed Assurance.* NCH 473. Tune: Assurance. Composed by Phobe P. Knapp (1873). Words by Fanny Crosby (1873). Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion UCC.

Source(s): Hymnary ([hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org)).

**Offertory:**             *It is Well with My Soul.* Composed by Philip P. Bliss (1876). © 2023 by Lorenz Publishing House. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion UCC.

**Postlude:**             *All Things Bright and Beautiful.* English folk melody. © 2023 by Lorenz Publishing House. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion UCC.