

# Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

February 25, 2024  
Second Sunday of Lent  
11:00 A.M.



*Joy is the echo of God's life in us.*

## GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

*We All Believe in One True God*

J. S. Bach

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Carl G. Glaser

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, we gather for worship to practice joy: not because our lives are perfect, but because joy is resilient, God's gift for every season and the wellspring at the heart of our faith. When our sins feel heavy,

**All: we practice joy.**

One: When floods rise and fall,

**All: we practice joy.**

One: When hope surprises us,

**All: we practice joy.**

One: When God sets people free,

**All: we practice joy.**

One: When Jesus heals us,

**All: we practice joy.**

One: When we are called,

**All: we practice joy.**

One: When we endure,

**All: we practice joy.**

One: We practice joy together, and God is with us.

**All: Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in unison)

**God of abundant goodness,  
we have hurt those we love,  
those far from us,  
ourselves,  
and your creation  
by what we do and by what we neglect.  
We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures  
and refuse to enjoy what you give.  
We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship  
plague our neighbors.  
We ignore the gift of your presence  
in times both tragic and triumphant.  
Forgive us for what we have done  
and for what we have failed to do.  
Pour out on us the joy of your presence  
and heal what we have harmed.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, receive these joyful words:  
You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins.  
You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child.  
You are released to live out God's love  
in a world that needs such joy.  
Amen.

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

*NCH #478 (verse 2)*

**I've got joy Like a fountain,  
I've got joy Like a fountain,  
I've got joy Like a fountain, in my soul  
I've got joy Like a fountain,  
I've got joy Like a fountain,  
I've got joy Like a fountain, in my soul**

**Reception of New Members**

Introduction of Joining Members: Charles and Barbara Ware

Greeting by Pastor: Friends in Christ, you have been asked to come forward to help us associate your names with your faces, which is a vital step as we seek to cultivate a real knowing of one another. It is in our relationships with one another, as well as in our shared worship, study, reflection, and service, that the life of this community of faith is built.

## **Statement of Faith: United Church of Christ Statement of Faith**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.**

## **Statement of Expectations for Joining Members - Kim Ridenour, Consistory President**

In response to our covenant and as an essential means of fulfilling it we expect the following from all members. We expect to find you at worship frequently; we assume you will be part of our circle around the Lord's Table. We assume you will want to continue to learn and to grow through sharing in our educational programs. We assume you are open to involvement in our servant forms of ministry in and beyond our church. We assume you will take a leadership role when possible and that you will set aside a responsible portion of your income for the financial support of our ministry in and beyond Hagerstown.

## Statement of Expectations of Joining Members – Kim Ridenour, Consistory President

You may expect from us, your fellow members, every feasible opportunity for spiritual, personal, and social growth. To facilitate this, we will share with you our gifts of experience and understanding in matters of life and faith. In your times of decision, stress and grief, you may expect us to be by your side. You may likewise expect us to want to be with you in your times of joy and celebration. From our Pastor, you may expect sound preaching, good counsel, informed teaching, leadership in community service, and always a willingness to listen and share with you. What we give you as your fellow members is our trust, and we ask yours in return.

### Acceptance of Membership:

Understanding the content of our covenant and hearing the expectations of fellow members, do you accept our invitation to membership?

If so, answer: **"Yes, with the help of God and my fellow members."**

Welcome of the Congregation: Do you, the members of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ accept these persons as your fellow members?

If so, answer: **"We do with joy!"**

### Unison Words of Welcome:

**We welcome you with thanksgiving as partners in the vital ministries of the Zion Reformed United Church of Christ. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Christ. God grant that together we may live out the claims of our faith and continue to grow into the fullness and maturity of life known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Hymn Refrain

"Here I am Lord"

Back of the New Century Hymnal

***Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.***

### WORD FOR CHILDREN

### ANTHEM

*God's Eye is on the Sparrow*

Charles H. Gabriel

**SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 The Inclusive Bible Lector: Carol Mooers

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, YHWH appeared and said, "I am El Shaddai, the Breasted One. Walk in my presence and be blameless. I will make a covenant between you and me, and I will increase your numbers exceedingly." Abram fell on his face before God, and God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: You will be the ancestor of many nations. You are no longer to be called Abram, "Respected Parent," but Abraham, "Progenitor of a Multitude," for you are the progenitor of a multitude of nations. I will make you most fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and rulers will spring from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you, and your descendants after you for generations to come. I will be your God, and the God of your descendants after you. ... God continued, "As for Sarai, her name will now be Sarah, "Noblewoman." I will bless her, and I will give you a child by her. I will bless her, and she will become nations; rulers of peoples will come from her."

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Scott Winnette

**\*HYMN***God is Truly With Us*

NCH #68

**MORNING PRAYER****THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES US**

**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 sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
for thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

God of Boundless Goodness: We have come to this place this day to worship you with our songs, with our words, with our bodies, with our gifts, and with our whole hearts. Strengthen us, we pray partnering with you in creating beauty. Amen.

**PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS****OFFERTORY***Jesus Priceless Treasure*

J. S. Bach

**Then let us adore and render God's right,  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
all honor and blessing with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (in unison)

**God of mercy and grace,  
you give us so much:  
our days, our loved ones,  
our passions and talents,  
the food we eat, the homes we know,  
a place to worship.**

**God, you pour out an abundance of goodness.  
Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.  
Bless them and bless us,  
that we will give generously,  
love boldly, and share widely,  
our offering reflecting your joyful gift.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*Joy to the World*

NCH #132

**BENEDICTION**

What we choose changes us.  
Who we love transforms us.  
How we create remakes us.  
Where we live reshapes us.  
So in all our choosing, O God, make us wise;  
In all our loving, O Christ, make us bold;  
In all our creating, O Spirit, give us courage;  
in all our living, may we become whole.  
And the blessing the  
Maker, Child, and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you, and those you love,  
and those for whom you pray  
this day and forever more.

**POSTLUDE**

*Praeludium und Fuge in g minor*

Nicolaus Bruhns

**Please remain seated until the Altar candles are doused.**





**With the Central Atlantic Conference and the Catoclin Association we will celebrate the Rev. Dr. Scott Winnette's installation as Zion's settled pastor. The worship service will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.**

Please let Carol Mooers know if you can help with the reception.

## Outreach and Service Opportunities

**Micah's Backpack** is collecting Peanut Butter in the month of February.

**Our Tuesday Night Ministry** is in need of 20 cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup. We are also collecting canned Soups and canned Meats during the month of February.

We are in need of volunteers on **Tuesday nights** to help in both the kitchen and the pantry. Contact Kim Ridenour or the office if you are interested.

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

## 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. 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, Elizabeth Baseler, Maryann Bohn and Children, Brenda Bowers, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Steve Cavey, **the family of David Keith Crone**, Kim & **Bill Cook**, Courtney and Baby Vera, Donna France, Brandon Graff, Samantha Graff, Sue Graff, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Beth Gross, Beth Hauver, Elwood Hauver, Brian Johnson, Bradley, Hanna & Ellie Jump, Maddison & Rexton Jump, Tena Kindle, Dee Krause, Shelly McKee, Joe McLaughlin, Marlin Martin, Gloria & John Moats, Heather Morgan, Margaret Munroe, Brad Nigh, Annie Penick, James Penick, Mary Pietsch, George Pietsch, Stephanie Resetar, Liam Reynolds, David Ridenour, **John Ridenour**, Wells Ridenour, Tina & **Rich Robinette**, Betsy Roulette, Emma Schnebly, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, Melanie & Wesley (granddaughter and great grandson of Danny Springer), Jessica Stark, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, Tracy Roach Walls.

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

## Other Announcements

### **Easter Flowers**

If you would like to donate for the Easter Cross to honor and remember your loved ones, you have until March 17<sup>th</sup>.

See the order form in this week's bulletin.

### **Wednesday Night Devotional and Potluck** (6PM in the Chapel)

Come on Wednesday nights to enjoy devotional and a potluck meal (bring what you like). We will be studying **Bend Lent Devotional**. Following the devotional, we will share in a potluck meal and fellowship.

### **Congregational Meeting**

The Congregational Meeting is today following the service. Please pick up a copy of the Annual Report if you have not already done so.

### **Visioning, Strategic Planning & Implementation**

Mark your calendar for Visioning, Strategic Planning & Implementation April 5th & 6th All members and friends of Zion Reformed UCC are invited to join us in identifying the core priorities for Zion Reformed UCC for the next five years. This weekend is very important to help us to work together. Friday April 5th from 6-9 and Saturday, April 6th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. We will send out more details about this event. Please join us!!

### **Good Friday Unity Walk – March 29th**

Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 2:30pm – Hagerstown City Park

Join us for HARC's annual ecumenical Good Friday Unity Walk in memory of Christ's passion and death. Walk begins in the gazebo adjacent to the Museum parking lot and ends at the "grotto." There will be 7 stops with scripture readings and meditations, and call-and-response songs between the stops. A stationary (no-walk) option will also be available at the gazebo. Questions? Contact Kathy at 301-842-4272 or [director@harccoalition.org](mailto:director@harccoalition.org). *Flyer*

## Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector this week is Carol Mooers. The lector next week is Jean Simmons.  
Ushers for this week are Mark Bagby, Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens.  
Next week's ushers are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz.

Greeters for this week are: Front Door – Jean Simmons. Middle Door – Lisa Saum.  
Please sign up to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the middle door.

- 2/27 Staff Meeting 12:00pm  
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm (Downstairs in Fellowship Hall)
- 2/28 Property Team Meeting 4:00 pm  
Wednesday Devotional **Seed of Joy** and Potluck 6:00pm
- 2/29 Executive Team Meeting 2:00pm  
4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm  
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 3/2 Cinderella Shop 9:30am – 12:30pm

### Birthdays

Kristin Kelly 2/28  
Missie LaBombard 2/28



**EASTER**

**CROSS**

One of our Easter traditions at Zion Church is the Easter Cross. It is erected at the beginning of Passion Week, representing the Cross of the Crucifixion. On Easter morning, as a symbol of

the Resurrection, it will bloom with Spring flowers.

Those who wish to be a part of this tradition are invited to sponsor flowers on the cross. Flowers may be contributed in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone dear. The names of those honored will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

If you are interested in donating flowers, please complete this form, and drop it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office by Sunday, March 17, 2024.



### Easter Cross Flowers

Please check one

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Contributed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit payment with your request. Make checks payable to Zion Reformed UCC and clearly marked "Easter Cross".

**Service**  
**February 25**  
**CCLI Number:**

**Credits**  
**6212519**

**Gathering music:** We All Believe in One True God. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Prelude:** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing. Tune: Azmon. Composed by Carl G. Glaser. Arr. by Anna Laura Page. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Hymns:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You. NCH 4. Tune: Hymn to Joy. Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven (1824). Words by Henry van Dyke (1907). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

God Himself Is Truly With Us. NCH 68. Tune: Wunderbarer Konig. Included in Joachim Neander's *Bundes-Lieder* (1680). Words by Gerhard Tersteegen (1729). Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Joy to the World. NCH 132. Tune: Antioch. Composed by Lowell Mason (1836). Words by Isaac Watts (1719). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

**Choir Anthem:** God's Eye is on the Sparrow. Composed by Charles H. Gabriel (1905). Words by Civilla D. Martin (1905).

**Offertory:** Jesus Priceless Treasure. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Postlude:** Praeludium und Fuge in g minor. Composed by Nicolaus Bruhns. © 1968 by Henry Litloff's Verlag. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

## 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

**Welcome** to the Zion Reformed United Church of Christ, an **Open and Affirming Church** striving to welcome and value all people and creation. I am glad you have joined us this morning. I believe you will find Zion Church an open and safe place to ask the difficult questions of life and a community that honors each spiritual journey. I encourage you to ask me or our members about our community, explore our bulletin and website and gift us with your contact information (phone, address, email) in our Guest Book or Pew Card. I/we are ready to answer any question or to help connect you to any program that we can. I hope to greet you in person after the service or that you'll contact me.

Many blessings, Pastor Scott



### To Give Electronically

#### **Zion Reformed United Church of Christ**

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