

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP

Sunday, April 7, 2024 11:00am



GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Were You There?

African American Spiritual

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Dr. Joni Miller

PRELUDE

Crown Him Lord of All

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Thanks be for Easter, and for Christ who has risen.

All: Easter is more than a moment. It is a direction away from being stuck and toward being helped and swung into action.

One: Today we are a community of people revitalized and reminded of who we are.

All: Each day we are reminded of the resurrection life of God's people.

One: Our delight does not cancel out problems but makes them possible to bear together.

All: Thanks be for Easter: for blessings which expand our world, rebirth of nature, justice envisioned, love amid difference, hope for the frightened, food for the hungry, home for the stranger, and for Christ who is risen! Amen! Alleluia!

*HYMN

All Glory Laud and Honor

NCH #216

PRAYER OF HOPE

One: Unlock the doors of fear and doubt.

All: May our faith spill into the streets!

One: Jesus is risen!

All: Death has no more claims on our life.

One: In life, in death, in life after death, God lives.

All: Peace be with you.

One: And also with you. Amen.

CHORAL REFRAIN

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 118

Lector: Wells Ridenour

One: O, how I love your friendship! I walk with You wherever I go.
Your Love is the life-giving force of Creation,
Imbue us with your living rays of peace and joy.

**All: For, as we surrender ourselves to Your living Presence,
We will be filled with the radiance of Love. As we open our hearts to the
spiritual life, we will be filled with wisdom and freedom, ready to serve.**

One: O, how glorious are the ways of the Spirit!
How wondrous are your Works!

The path of love is sure, unhurried and filled with mystery.

**All: How sweet are your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through your Mind I receive understanding; I no longer take pleasure in my
former ways.**

One: Yes, your Truth is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
You give me strength as I descend into the inner sanctum,
To uncover the hidden blessings,
To seek the treasures of the Spirit.

**All: When I am filled with fear, I meditate upon your Light.
I yearn to have every doubt and fear
Quelled and transformed;
O Heart of all hearts, bless me with your healing light,
That I may be a loving presence.**

One: Though the ignorant lay snares for me, Let me not stray from You.
Your Word is my heritage forever; Yes, it is the joy of my heart.
I shall open my heart's ear to converse with you Forever, to the end.

All: When I meditate upon your Light, my heart opens with compassion for all life.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

ANTHEM

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

Zion Choir

SCRIPTURE

John 20:24-29

Lector: Wells Ridenour

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin”—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, “We’ve seen Jesus!” Thomas’ answer was, “I’ll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound.” On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, “Peace be with you.” Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don’t persist in your unbelief, but believe!” Thomas said in response, “My Savior and my God!” Jesus then said, “You’ve become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Joni Miller

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

This Joyful Eastertide

***DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**We return our thanks, Holy One,
offering a portion of our earnings
to foster the works of this community
in bringing care, joy, peace, and justice to our world.**

HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

NCH #330

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

One: Luke in his Gospel says that Jesus, while sharing a meal with two disciples, took bread blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Christ. In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of bread.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us open our hearts.

All: We open our hearts to God and one another.

One: Let us give thanks.

All: We thank God with joy.

One: Loving Spirit, Abiding Hope,
Our life with you is a call and response.
Our movement in you like the waves of the ocean and the dance of the wind.
We call out to you: Where do we find you? How do we follow you?

All: Find me at your table; share your food. Find me in your breath; honor all life. Find me in your power; advocate for the disempowered. Find me in your hurt; tend to the wounds of the world. Find me in your joy; celebrate the abundance of creation.

One: Again, we call to you: Feed us, so we might be nourished. Love us, so we know we are lovable. Heal us, so we might be whole. Walk with us, so we are not alone. Comfort us so, so we are not afraid.

All: Beauty is before you, behind you, above you, below you, within you. I am embodied in your midst—In the grain and the sun and the bread, In the grape and the rain and the wine, In the life of Jesus and each child of God and the living Christ. My love for you has no end.

One: You call to us: Love one another, even your enemies. Live peaceably so all may rest in safety.

All: We are here, gathered at your table—Where we can admit our shortcomings, lament our losses, sing our praises, and offer ourselves as we are.

We meet you here—Your grace washing over us to fill us once again with boundless compassion. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

*Blessed Assurance
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

Prayer of Commitment (in unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you give of yourself to help us grow. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your blessing, to work in your name and rest in your grace, trusting your presence with us and with all creation. Amen.

*HYMN

Yours is the Glory, Resurrection One

NCH #253

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

FELLOWSHIP



We give thanks to Dr. Joni Miller for her gifts in worship this morning.

“I speak. I write. I give workshops. About spirituality. About life. Promoting acceptance of life's uncertainties and our unique journeys. Delivered with a dose of humor. So we can all find our way - body, mind, and spirit.”

Please remain seated until the Altar candles are doused.

Outreach and Service Opportunities

Micah's Backpack is collecting Juice boxes in the month of April.

Our Tuesday Night Ministry needs **Empty Egg Cartons**. We are also collecting Cereal – boxes and individual servings.

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a special mission offering that is received annually during Lent by the UCC congregations. Its purpose is to provide a ministry of support and recovery for those who are affected by natural disaster, relentless violence, or pervasive poverty around the world and in the US.

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, David Baker, Koda Bell, Maryann Bohn and Children, Brenda Bowers, Naomi Brackett, Bryan Jones, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Steve Cavey, Kim & Bill Cook, Courtney and Baby Vera, Donna France, Brandon Graff, Samantha Graff, Sue Graff, Michael Graff, Sr., Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Beth Gross, **David Lee Hatfield, Jim Hatfield**, Elwood Hauver, **Family of Jane Hershey (Mother of Kristin Grosh and Todd Hershey)**, Lyn Hoffmaster, Kamry, Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston, **Susan Lohman**, Peggy Lowman, The Family of Marlin Martin (LoriBeth Martins father-in-law), Heather Morgan, Annie Penick, James Penick, Mary Pietsch, George Pietsch, **Parker Ragland**, Stephanie Resetar, David Ridenour, John Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, **Jose Rodriquez**, Betsy Roulette, Emma Schnebly, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, Daisy Schlotterbeck, Jessica Stark, Byron Stay, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, Tracy Roach Walls, **Erick Wellnitz**.

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

Other Announcements

Wednesday Night Devotional and Potluck

We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the Chapel when we will continue with our video series on Gratitude.

Come and join us for an insightful devotional followed by a potluck meal (bring what you like) and fellowship.

Visioning, Strategic Planning & Implementation

Thank you all for attending – your input will be a great help in planning the future of Zion Reformed UCC.

Dinner Theater – April 13th 5:00pm

Please see Barb Hendershot for your tickets for our Dinner Theater presentation of **The Science of Murder**. This is your last chance to get these tickets. \$15.00 per ticket or \$25.00 per couple.

Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector this week is Wells Ridenour. The lector next week is Amber Nilson.

Ushers for this week are Willim Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons.

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

Greeters for this week are: Front Door – TBD. Middle Door – TBD.

Please sign up to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the middle door.

- 4/9 Faith and Food – Progressive Meal at Historic Worship Sites, we are the first stop at 10:00am
Staff Meeting 12:00pm
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm (Downstairs in Fellowship Hall)
- 4/10 Wednesday Devotional & Potluck 6:00pm
- 4/11 4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 4/12 Dinner Theater Dress Rehearsal & Set up 5:30pm
- 4/13 Easy-cise Class 9:00am
Dinner Theater 5:00pm

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|-------------------|
| 4/7 | Betsy Roulette | 4/10 | Kimberly Ridenour |
| 4/9 | David Rhodes | 4/10 | Lynda Graves |
| 4/10 | Jean Simmons | 4/12 | Robert Kefauver |



Service Credits
April 7
CCLI Number: 6212519

Gathering music: Were You There? African American spiritual. Arr. by C. M. Moblard. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Crown Him Lord of All. Tune: Diadem. Composed by James Ellor. Arr. by Mary McDonald. Ó 2014 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: All Glory Laud and Honor. NCH 216. Tune: St. Theodulph. Composed by Melchoir Teschner (1615). Words by Theodulph of Orleans (9th century). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day. NCH 241. Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur. German carol, 15th century. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Yours is the Glory Resurrection One. NCH 253. Tune; Judas Maccabeus. Composed by G. F. Handel. Words by Edmund Bundry (1964). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem: My Life Flows on in Endless Song. Tune: Endless Song.

Offertory: This Joyful Eastertide. Arr. by David Polley. Ó 1986 by Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

An Easter Fanfare. Composed by David Paxton. Ó 2005 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Communion: Blessed Assurance. Tune: Assurance. Composed by Phoebe P. Knapp. Arr. by Mark Hayes. Ó 2014 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

CCLI number: 3583928

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go. Tune: St. Margaret. Composed by Albert L. Peace. Arr. by Mark Hayes. Ó 2014 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain. Tune: St. Kevin. Composed by Arthur S. Sullivan. Ó 2015 by Lorenz Publishing Co. 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

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