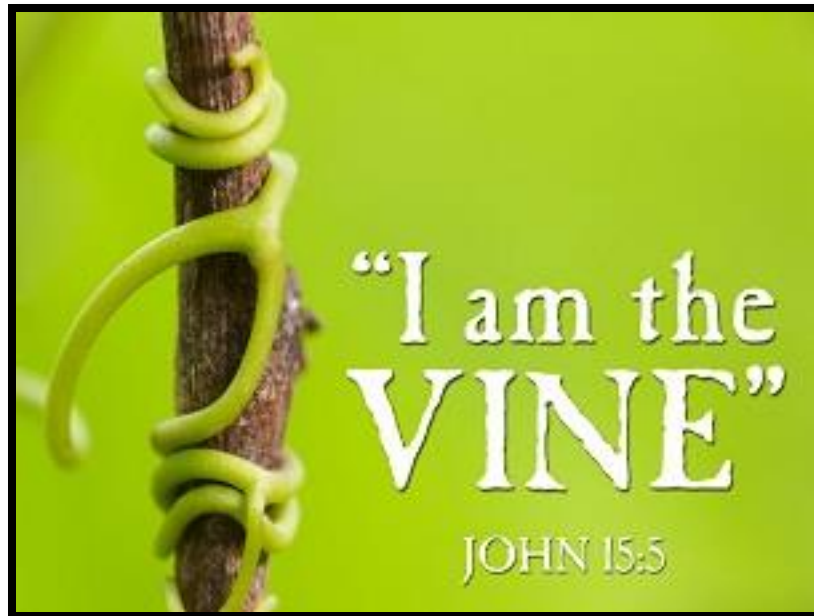


# ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28, 2024 11:00am



*"I am the vine; you are the branches.  
He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit:"*

## GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

*Two Fugues in c minor*

J. S. Bach

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

*In Paradisum*

Gabriel Faure

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus is the Vine

**All: Nourishing us for abundant life.**

One: Jesus is the Living Water

**All: Refreshing us for gracious service.**

One: Jesus is the Gate

**All: inviting us into beauty and joy.**

One: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life

**All: Leading us toward wholeness.**

One: We are the Body of Christ

**All: And individually members of one another. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*Creator of the Intertwined*

Sung to KINGSFOLD

*Creator of the intertwined, you made each soul unique:  
Each one with ears to hear faith's call, each one with voice to speak.*

*Each worships where the call is heard – in forest, temple, dome,  
on mountain top, in upper room the soul must find a home.*

*The song of peace best sung by all: strength born of unity.  
In harmony we celebrate your gift: diversity.*

*Can we not sing each other's songs? Speak unfamiliar prayer?  
Rejoicing in the bounty of the differences we share?*

*In evil's wake we all are hurt; when prick'd all humans bleed.  
With common wounds and shared despair, we seek the balm we need.*

*We do not ask before we reach to offer our embrace.  
We do not ask, "How do you pray?" We reach with arms of grace.*

*Teach us to cherish what is strange and so the richer be;  
to listen with our hearts and speak with loving honesty.*

*From different sources comfort comes, each seeks for the Divine:  
your voice speaks many languages, just one of them is mine.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: "Things fall apart, the center cannot hold."

**All: We are no strangers to the falling apart;  
We perpetrate against the center of our lives,  
and on some days it feels like an endless falling,  
like a deep threat, like rising water, like ruthless wind.**

One: But you....you in the midst,  
you back in play  
you rebuking and silencing and ordering,  
you creating restfulness in the very eye of the storm.  
You...be our center:  
cause us not to lie about the danger,  
cause us not to resist your good order.

**All: Be our God. Be the God you promised,  
and we will be among those surely peaceable in your order.  
We pray in the name of the one through whom all things hold together.  
Amen.**

by Walter Brueggemann

**CHORAL REFRAIN**

*If You Believe and I Believe*

See Insert

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 5:1-7

Lector: Calvin Livingston

Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.  
What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching us.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## WORD FOR CHILDREN

## ANTHEM

*Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord*

Zion Choir

## SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8 The Inclusive Bible

Lector: Calvin Livingston

"I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You've been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who don't live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

**\*HYMN**

*Praise Ye The Father*

Red #14

## 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 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.**

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

**OFFERTORY**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

**\*DOXOLOGY**

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

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Illumine our lives, O God,  
with the radiance of Christ's love,  
and inspire us to shine in faith and witness as his holy disciples.  
Receive now the gifts of our lives,  
and transform us into the light of the world.  
Give us strength to serve you faithfully,  
and when this life is over,  
transform us once again through the glory of resurrection.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

## \*HYMN

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

NCH #76

## BENEDICTION

One: As we go now to our daily living,  
may the Spirit come to us in new and exciting ways:

**All: as a gentle whisper, in dreams, in silence, in prayer;**

One: as a strong wind, in lives filled with love and compassion;

**All: as a mighty storm, in exuberant hearts filled with joy.**

One: So let us go now, filled with the Spirit all our days!

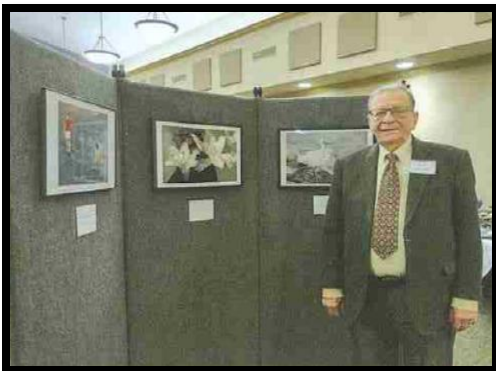
**All: Amen!**

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata in G Major*

William Walond

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



**Congratulations to Ralph France.** His photographs were featured at Homewood's first ever "Art for Life" exhibition.

**Congratulations to Jax Burchard** for reaching 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Level 2 Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do at Tiger Rock Martial Arts Academy.



## Pastor Katie's Installation as the Settled Pastor of Trinity UCC in Manchester, MD

A group of us went up to Manchester for this exciting event. It was wonderful to be a part of Pastor Katie's special day.



## Outreach and Service Opportunities

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

**Our Tuesday Night Ministry** is collecting Cereal – both 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.

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, John Bartley, Koda Bell, Brenda Bowers, Naomi Brackett, Bryan Jones, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Kim & Bill Cook, Donna France, Brandon Graff, Michael Graff, Sr., Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), **Beth Gross**, David Lee Hatfield, Jim Hatfield, Elwood Hauver, Lyn Hoffmaster, Brian Johnson, Kamry, Dee Krause, Missie LaBombard, Jerri Livingston, **Brenda Lohman**, Peggy Lowman, Teresa Moates, Heather Morgan, Annie Penick, **James Penick**, Mary Pietsch, George Pietsch, Parker Ragland, Stephanie Resetar, David Ridenour, John Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Emma Schnebly, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, Jessica Stark, Byron Stay, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, Tracy Roach Walls, Erick Wellnitz, **Christel Wolbring, Eric Wolbring**.

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

## Other Announcements

### **Wednesday Night Devotional and Potluck**

Wednesday Night Study 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 a potluck meal (bring what you like), devotion and fellowship.

### **Graduation Sunday – May 19, 2024**

We would like to honor all our graduates on May 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have a graduate in your family, or know of one, please contact Pastor Scott or the office with the information.

### **Getting Ready for VBS – June 17–19, 2024 6:00-8:00pm - Christ's Reformed UCC & ZOOM**

We are ready to dive into Vacation Bible School. Our theme is SCUBA, diving into friendship with God. We will be sharing God's word for three evenings, Monday-Wednesday June 17-19 from 6-8pm. We are excited to partner with Christ's Reformed UCC.

We are looking for volunteers:

- crew leaders (chaperons for the individual groups)
- stations leader (craft, games, snacks, and Bible-telling)
- storytellers
- registration volunteers
- other volunteers.

## Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector this week is Calvin Livingston. The lector next week is Carol Mooers.

Ushers for this week are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz.

Next week's ushers are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons.

Greeters for this week are: Front Door – Megan Shroyer. Middle Door – Calvin Livingston.

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

- 4/30 Staff Meeting 12:00pm  
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm (Upstairs in the Chapel Area)
- 5/1 Properties Committee Meeting 4:00pm  
Wednesday Devotional & Potluck 6:00pm
- 5/2 Executive Team meeting 2:00pm  
4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm  
Choir Practice 5:30pm

### **Birthdays**

- 4/28 Michael Heyser  
5/3 Mark Shroyer



## If You Believe and I Believe 127

G C D7 G C D G

If you be-lieve and I be-lieve and we to-geth-er pray,

C D7 G C D G

the Ho-ly Spir-it must come down and set God's peo-ple free,

Bm Am D Am G

and set God's peo-ple free, and set God's peo-ple free;

D7 G C D7 G C D7 G

the Ho-ly Spir-it must come down and set God's peo-ple free.

This tune appears here in an arrangement by the Scottish musician John L. Bell, who serves the multid denominational and multilingual Iona Community.

WORDS: Zimbabwean hymn

MUSIC: Zimbabwean melody adapt. from an English melody; arr. John L. Bell (1949- )

Music Art © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Never place a period where God has placed a comma.

Gracie Allen

**God is Still Speaking**

**Service Credits**  
**CCLI Number: 6212519**  
**April 28, 2024**

**Gathering music:** Two Fugues in c minor. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Prelude:** In Paradisium. Composed by Gabriel Faure. Arr. for organ by Marcel Dupre. © 1976 by Belwin-Mills publishing Corp. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Hymns:** Creator of the Intertwined. Author: Jacque B. Jones b. 1950. Tune: Kingsfold. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Praise Ye the Father. Red 14. Elizabeth Charles. Frederick F. Fleming, 1810. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing. NCH 76. Composer: Omer Westendorf, 1964. © 1964 by World Library Publications. 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:** Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord.

**Offertory:** I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say. Traditional English Melody. Arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams. © 2019 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Postlude:** Toccata in G Major. Composed by William Walond. © 1947 by Mercury Music. 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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