



March 2, 2025

Zion Reformed  
United Church of Christ

*To share the gospel of Christ  
in such a way that we find God,  
grow our faith,  
discover our purpose  
and make a difference.*

Order of Worship

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## GATHERING MUSIC & BELLS

*Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness, J.S. Bach*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

## PRELUDE

*Fanfare on "Duke Street", John Hatton*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God, glorious and faithful, seek our sincere hearts.

**One: God reveal the beauty of Your divine love.**

Pastor: God, open our hearts to Your transfiguring power.

**One: God, reveal the beauty of Your divine love.**

Pastor: God, transform us into your beloved disciples.

**One: Thus, our hearts, open to Your love, will praise You in worship this day.**

**Alleluia, Amen.**

## \*HYMN GG 346

*For the Healing of the Nations*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, we confess that we have passed judgment on your servants. We have classified our siblings by our own faulty standards to decide who is worthy. We have rejected those who do not see things our way and looked down upon those who make different decisions. We have lived according to our own way of seeing, rather than living to the Lord and walking in love. Forgive us, merciful judge, for creating division in your kingdom. Save us from the pain we inflict on each other. Teach us to live together in true peace and righteous joy, serving you by loving all. Here us now as we pray silently. Amen.

*Silence for Personal Confession*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, hear the Good News! God forgives our sins and surrounds us with constant love. We are made to understand this forgiveness only when we share it with others.

Jesus points to unlimited willingness to forgive. Friends, believe this Good News!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## RESPONSE OF PRAISE GG 69, Refrain

*Here I Am, Lord*

Jesus wants us to see his glory, so that we can cling to that experience... When we are attentive to the light within us and around us, we will gradually see more and more of that light and even become a light for others. We have to trust that the transfiguration experience is closer to us than we might think.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

**All: We are listening.**

**WORD FOR CHILDREN**

**ANTHEM**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 9: 28-36, NRSV

Lector: Rae Smith

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON** Creating Sacred Space

Rev. Sheresa A. Simpson-Rice

**\*HYMN GG 525**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

One: Life is hard. The path is often full of pain. We need to know we won't be alone. We need to know there will be a light in the shadows, a door open, a table set, someone to offer us a loaf and a cup, a song and a story to revive our flagging hearts: a safe refuge till morning.

Dear friends, you have come to that place. Here Christ waits for you and welcomes you without question. So come, let yourself be cared for and fed by our faithful, tender friend.

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

One: Now let us pray: We remember, Gracious God, that from the beginning you desired that we live and not die, thrive and not wither, find company and not be alone. You met us in the wilderness with manna, in the forty-day desert with angels, in the night of betrayal with a feast.

**All: Whenever we went astray, you came for us and brought us home.**

One: And you sent us Jesus, who longed to gather us like a hen safeguards her chicks; who told us the truth about life and its dangers, about the man set upon by robbers, left for dead, and the enemy stranger who cared for him and became his neighbor.

Jesus told us to be neighbors, too: to have no fear in welcoming and tending, to be ready at our doors with a light.

We remember that he called them and us friends although he knew that we would turn him away when he needed us most. On that night when we betrayed him he gave us bread and wine, signs of the risk he took for us in his own body, the life he surrendered in love.

All: And he promised to be with us every time we eat this meal together, so that we would never be afraid because we are never alone.

One: With gratitude we pray.

All: We ask you, Holy Spirit, to bless this bread and cup, love made food for our safety and consolation. As we eat and drink together, fill us with hope and make us brave. Keep us, like Christ, beside our doors, holding a light, saying to every shadowed stranger: Here, right here, come in.

## SHARING BREAD AND CUP

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
Amazing Grace*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Who is like you, Gracious One? There is no one like you, our feast and our song, our safety and our story, our hope and our peace. There is no one like you. Thank you, now and always. Amen.

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Behold a Host*

## 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 (in unison)

We behold you Loving Lord. We bear our gifts. We give them to You.  
We behold Your Loving care for us and the world. Receive us and our gifts. Help us to help You to gracefully transform us and this world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER

## THE PRAYER 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.

## \*HYMN GG 761

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

## \*BENEDICTION

Lord, make us more holy;  
Lord, make us more holy;  
Lord, make us more holy,  
until we meet again:  
holy, holy, holy,  
until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving;  
Lord, make us more loving;  
Lord, make us more loving,  
until we meet again:  
loving, loving, loving,  
until we meet again.

POSTLUDE

*Grand Choeur Dialogue*

Please remain seated until the altar candles are doused.



Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice serves as the Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development and the western region of our conference, providing support to churches in West Virginia, Virginia, and western Maryland. A native of south central Pennsylvania, Sheresa has served rural churches in Penn Central Conference and an urban church in Heartland Conference prior to conference ministry.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Lancaster Theological Seminary, Sheresa is married to her husband Karl. She has a son, a daughter by marriage, a beloved dog named Lola, and two grand pups. Serving Christ through the work of the church is the honor of her life.



## 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, **Michael Baseler**, Lon Bender, Brenda Bowers, Naomi Brackett, Pat Brackett (Naomi's Sister-in-law), Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Kim & Bill Cook, Donna France, Avery Goodrich, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Sue Graff, Beth Gross, Jim Hatfield, The Family of Elwood Hauver (Beth's Dad), The Family of Dorothy (Dottie) Hendershot (Barb's Mother-in-law), Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston, Peggy Lowman, Gus M, **Darrin Miller**, Bonnie Minoglio-Toms (friend of Barb & Charley Ware), Heather Morgan, Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), Crystal Reed (Lori Schmidt's daughter-in-law), David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, **Henry Rothrock, (Father of Missie LaBombard)**, Lisa Saum, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Jessica Stark, Thelma Summers, **Angela Yamashita**.

## Announcements

### Sunday School Options

**Current Events Corner** – A Sunday School alternative for adults is a table ready with Sunday's copy of the Washington Post newspaper. Gather at the table in the Chapel for fellowship, coffee, and to discuss the day's events.

**Arthur Grove Class** – A bible-based study and discussion group for adults, led by David Ridenour and Rae Smith. - Live and available via Zoom

**Youth & Young Adults** - This class is for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders through 23 year olds and will be held in the Pastor's Office.

**Children's Sunday School** – Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Teaching based on that week's scripture readings, led by Miss Kim.

Our regular **Wednesday Night Devotional** will resume this week with a new series of study for Lent.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday March 9, 2025 immediately following worship. We will be providing chicken for lunch. Bring your favorite side or desert.

### THE CINDERELLA SHOP

The Cinderella Shop will be open each Saturday in March from 9 am to 12 noon. Volunteers to "man" the Shop as well as to provide security are needed. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Chapel or see Carroll Sager to volunteer. Additional volunteers are also needed for about 5 total hours to assist with organizing, sifting, and purging through the many donated gowns. Hours for this part of the project can be during the week. Please see Carroll Sager if you can help.

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP** - Please save July 6-10th for a mission trip. We will drive to New Bern, N.C. to help with hurricane recovery. We have a house with 58 beds reserved and will be working with a construction team. Youth and chaperones have first choice with a March 31 registration deadline. All additional adults will need to register by April 30th. The approximate cost for the trip is \$300 for lodging, food, and transportation on a church van. All will be expected to purchase their own meal when we eat out on our final day. Please consider joining us in this important opportunity to reach out in service and love to others. For questions or more information, please contact Rev. Scott Winnette at [pastorwinnette@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwinnette@gmail.com)

## Outreach and Service Opportunities

**Micah's Backpack** will be collecting **Pudding and Jello Cups** during the month of March.

**Tuesday Night Ministry** is collecting **Hygiene Products** for the month of March. We are also in need of **empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes.**

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

Service Credits  
CCLI Number: 6212519  
March 2, 2025

Gathering music: *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness.* Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: *Fanfare on "Duke Street."* Composed by John Hatton. Arr. by John S. Dixon. © 2019 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: *For the Healing of the Nations.* Tune: St. Thomas. Composed by John Francis Wade. Words by Fred Kaan (1965). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

*Let Us Break Bread Together.* GG 525. African American Spiritual. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service.* GG 761. Tune: Beecher. Composed by John Zundel (1870). Words by Jane Parker Huber (1981). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem:

Communion: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus.* Composed by Charles C. Converse. Arr. by Jack Schrader. ©1999 by Hope Publishing Co.

*Amazing Grace.* Arr. Jack Schrader. © 2001 by Hope Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Offertory: *Behold a Host.* Norwegian folk tune. Arr. by John Ferguson. © 2000 by Augsburg Fortress. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: *Grand Choeur Dialogue.* Composed by Eugene Gigout. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

## Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Rae Smith

Ushers for this week are Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens, Rick Waters

Acolyte for this week is

## Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector next week is Barb Ware

Next week's ushers are Christine Coleman, Tina Shafer, Judy Thompson, Barb Ware.

Next week's Children's Church is Susie Clutz.

- 3/2 Sunday School 9:45am
- Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30am
- Dinner Theater Rehearsal 12:30pm
- 3/4 Staff Meeting 11:00am
- Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
- 3/5 Ash Wednesday Potluck 6:00pm
- Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
- 3/6 Properties Meeting 1:00pm
- Executive Team Meeting 2:00pm
- 4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm
- Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 3/8 Easy-cise Class 9:00am

### Birthdays

- |     |               |     |                 |
|-----|---------------|-----|-----------------|
| 3/3 | Page Wise     | 3/7 | Linda Frakes    |
| 3/5 | Billie Keller | 3/7 | Tina Shafer     |
| 3/5 | Ellen Barr    | 3/8 | Christian Grosh |