



March 9, 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

GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Jesus Priceless Treasure

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting today after worship.

PRELUDE

Festive Voluntary on "Hanover"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As the Holy Spirit gathers us for worship on this first Sunday in Lent, we come carrying the weight of the world's needs. I invite you to lay those needs in God's hands. Come back to one simple need: the need to breathe.

All: Breathe in, and breathe out,

One: remembering that in the beginning, God breathed into us the breath of life.

All: Breathe in, and breathe out,

One: remembering that Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto his friends and followers.

All: Breathe in, and breathe out,

One: remembering that the Holy Spirit intercedes for our needs and for every need with sighs too deep for words. We worship in the name of our triune God,

All: who gives us life, gives us breath, and gives us what we need the most:

One: God's own self, here in this place.

All: Amen.

*HYMN GG 826

Lift High the Cross

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, I confess that I struggle to confess.

**All: I want to delight you by doing all the right things. I don't want to admit that I can't.
To receive your forgiveness, I must confront my failure.**

One: God, I confess that I struggle to confess:

**All: I'm afraid of being a burden to others. I don't want to need them too much,
so I try not to need them at all.**

One: God, I confess that I struggle to confess:

**All: just like I turn away from my own vulnerability I turn away from the vulnerable.
I have rejected my weakness and avoided those who are weak.
I have denied my frailty and looked down on those who are frail.
I have resisted my dependence and thought less of those who depend on others.**

One: God, forgive us, because we struggle to forgive ourselves.

All: We build a wall of self-reliance that separates us from your love.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Jesus once said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician."
Jesus didn't come for those who didn't need him: he came for me and for you and for everyone who has fallen short.

Feel how Jesus' power is made perfect in our weakness.
In Christ's name, I tell you that you are completely and entirely forgiven.
You are imperfect, and you are forgiven, and you are entirely loved.
Let that forgiven-ness rest in your bones not as a sign of our failure to win the fight against sin,
but as the realization that God already has. Let us shout with the psalmist:

All: My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust! Amen.

CHORAL REFRAIN

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:11-32 The Message

Lector: Barb Ware

Then he said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.' "So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any. "That brought him to his senses. He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got right up and went home to his father.

"When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: 'Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again.'

"But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!' And they began to have a wonderful time.

"All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day's work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, 'Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.'

"The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, 'Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!'

"His father said, 'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found!'"

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching us.

All: Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR CHILDREN

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 2:1-10 NRSV

Lector: Barb Ware

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with

him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Salvaged

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette

***HYMN GG 833**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER, James Ridgely

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith Prayer

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.

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Holy and righteous God, you have called us to follow. The gifts we offer this day are only a small token of affirmation that we accept that call.

OFFERTORY

When in the Hour of Utmost Need

***DOXOLOGY**

*Then let us adore, and give him his 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**

One: God, we have supplied the gifts, and you have supplied the purpose.

All: Now bless our gifts and use them in your service. Amen.

***HYMN GG 840**

When Peace Like a River

***BENEDICTION**

Now may God,
who risks loving an imperfect people,
who forges weakness into divine strength,
who never leaves us or forsakes us,
bless you and sustain you.
Today God has answered your need,
and now the Spirit sends you out
to answer the world's need. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE GG 451**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mouth, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

POSTLUDE

In Peace and Joy I now Depart

Please remain seated until the altar candles are doused.

Altar Flowers today are placed in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew K. Coffman
by the Coffman family.

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, **Carol France**, Donna France, Avery Goodrich, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Sue Graff, Beth Gross, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), **The Family of Howard Kaylor**, Dee Krause, **Calvin Livingston**, 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, **The Family of Marcia Shenk (sister of Margaret Wagner)**, Jessica Stark, Thelma Summers, **Margaret Wagner**, **Angela Yamashita**.

Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Barb Ware

Ushers for this week are Christine Coleman, Tina Shafer, Judy Thompson, Barb Ware

Acolyte for this week is

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

Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector next week is Rick Waters

Next week's ushers are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz.

- 3/9 Sunday School 9:45am
- Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30am
- Annual Meeting 12:00pm followed by lunch
- 3/10 CE Team Meeting 5:30pm
- Consistory Meeting 7:00pm
- 3/11 Staff Meeting 11:00am
- Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
- 3/12 Pot Luck & Lenten Service 6:00pm
- 3/13 Newsletter Article Deadline
- Red Robin Fund Raiser
- Choir Practice 5:30pm

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| 3/9 | Christopher Mooers | 3/11 | Julia Patterson |
| 3/9 | Elizabeth Dattilio | 3/14 | Christine Coleman |

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.

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 6th Graders through 23-year-olds and will be held upstairs in the Youth Room.

Children's Sunday School – Pre-K through 5th 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.

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

Service Credits

CCLI Number: 6212519

March 9

Gathering Music: Jesus Priceless Treasure. Settings by Pachelbel, Zachau, Walther, and J. S. Bach. Ó 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Festive Voluntary on "Hanover." Composed by William Croft. Arr. by David Lasky. Ó 2021 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Lift High the Cross. GG 826. Tune: Crucifer. Composed by Sydney Hugo Nicholson. Words by George William Kitchin. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go. GG 833. Tune: St. Margaret. Composed by Albert Lister Peace. Words by George Mattheson. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

When Peace Like a River. GG 840. Tune: Ville du Havre. Composed by Philip P. Bliss. Words by Horatio G. Spafford. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem:

Offertory: When in the Hour of Utmost Need. Composed by J. S. Bach. Ó 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: In Peace and Joy I now Depart. Composed by J. S. Bach. Ó 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

The Message is a paraphrase of scripture by the Rev. Eugene Peterson.

Elements of the liturgy comes from [All We Need: The Basics](#) by Barn Goose Worship.