

May 4, 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

Praeludium in g moll and How Great Thou Art

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome online and in person congregants.
Pew Cards

PRELUDE

Alle Menschen Mussen Sterben

***CALL TO WORSHIP**, adapted from Psalm 51

One: Lead us in the paths of justice, guide our steps on paths of peace.
All: **You have placed your truth in the inner being; therefore, teach us the wisdom of the heart.**
One: Lead us in the paths of justice, guide our steps on paths of peace.
All: **Create in us clean hearts, O Gracious One, and put a new and right spirit within us.**
One: O Most Gracious and Compassionate Friend, melt our hearts of stone.
All: **Create in us clean hearts, O Gracious One, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

***HYMN PURPLE 39**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

PRAYER OF HOPE (Unison)

Eternal and Immortal One, we know that our days on Earth are a mystery, a searching for You, a yearning for the great Mystery to make itself known. Teach us, O Beloved. Help us to wait in Silence listening for your word. O that we might be converted in our hearts and walk together in peace and harmony. Let the grace and gentleness of the Holy Spirit be upon us, guiding our feet upon paths of Love. O Beloved, hear our prayer! Amen.

adapted from Psalm 90

SONG

John Merbecke. 1550
arr. Healey Willan, 1930



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

One: Listen to what the Spirit teaches.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Peace in the Valley

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Barb Hendershot

SCRIPTURE Acts 9:1-16, The Inclusive Bible

Lector: Tina Shafer

Meanwhile Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. He had gone up to the high priest and asked for letters, addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find, both women and men. As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you?" Saul asked. The voice answered, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do." Those traveling with him were speechless. They heard the voice, but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground unable to see, even though his eyes were open. They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. For three days he continued to be blind, during which time he ate and drank nothing. There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. Christ appeared to him in a vision, saying, "Ananias." Ananias said, "Here I am." Then Christ said to him, "Go at once to Straight Street, and at the house of Judah ask for a certain Saul of Tarsus. He is there praying. Saul had a vision that a man named Ananias will come and lay hands on him so that he would recover his sight." But Ananias protested, "I have heard from many sources about Saul and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. He is here now with authorization from the chief priests to arrest everybody who calls on your name." Christ said to Ananias, "Go anyway. Saul is the instrument I have chosen to bring my Name to Gentiles, to rulers, and to the people of Israel. I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for my name."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON This is your better life

Rev. Dr. E Scott Winnette

*HYMN PURPLE 738

O Master Let Me Walk With Thee

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

One: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. People come from north, south, east, and west to sit at the table in the realm of God.

All: **Here in this place, the communion table is open to people of all races, creeds, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic circumstances, and ages: adults, teens, and children.**

One: This is Christ's table, all are invited to share the feast.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us continue in prayer. Blessed are you, Mighty God, Strong Liberator, for all that you are creating and accomplishing, across the great expanse of time. We give you thanks, O God. For your steadfast love endures forever.

For all who have struggled to bring forth life amid cultures of destruction, for all who have dared to risk everything to cross over from slavery into freedom, for all who have not simply stood by, or hidden behind privilege, but confronted injustice to save others, we give you thanks, O God. For your steadfast love endures forever.

For the prophets of old who led with strong voice and sure conviction, and called the people to stand with all who were marginalized and discounted, we give you thanks.

For Jesus, the great liberator, who healed, and taught, and spoke truth, and who could not be silenced, or shamed, or erased by the instruments of terror, who gathered with all kinds of people in all kinds of places and gave thanks to you.

Through the power of your Spirit, we celebrate the mystery of your presence in that time and in this time.

We join now as your people in the unity of Christ, and give thanks to you, O God. For your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Here I Am, Lord

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (in unison)

Loving and merciful God, refreshed at your table and restored by your grace, we are fulfilled where once we were empty; we are renewed where once we were weary; we are hopeful where once we were afraid.

We thank you for all the ways in which you have blessed our lives. We remember that you are the source of our hope and our peace. Alive to your presence, we commit ourselves to serve you in word and deed, to work for justice and dismantle racism, to work for peace and build reconciliation, through the power of the Christ in our midst. Amen.

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Adagio

* 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 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

Sing a New World into Being, (to the tune of Hymn To Joy)

Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream.
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song.

Sing a new world into being, where each gender class and race.
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace.
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being, Risk transforming heart and mind.

Sing a new world into being, where the homeless find a home.
Where no children ever hunger, but are filled with God's shalom.
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being, raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being, Join the ancient prophets' cry.
For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry.
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being, live the promise you believe.

*BENEDICTION

Filled with the Grace of the Risen Christ,
go forth and recognize the conversions
that lure you to choose a larger life, truer life, more complete life,
and delight in the love that enfolds you. Amen

*POSTLUDE

Recessional for Trumpet and Organ

Please remain seated to enjoy the Postlude as the Acolyte douses the altar candles

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:

Holly Bell, Bruce Albright, Janis Albright, Naomi Brackett, Pat Brackett (Naomi's Sister-in-law), Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, **Kim & Bill Cook**, Joy DeYoung (Claire-Marie's niece), Family of Fay Doppel (Barb Hendershot's sister-in-law), Donna France, **The Family of Sally Glover (Wife of Carl Glover)**, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Sue Graff, **Beth Gross**, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), The Family of Buddy Horton (Pastor Scotts cousin), **The Family of Howard Kaylor (Service 5/17 1:00pm)**, Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston, Mary Lorring, Darrin Miller, Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), Crystal Reed (Lori Schmidt's daughter-in-law), David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Staci Shafer, **Thelma Summers**, Margaret Wagner, Angela Yamashita.

Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Tina Shafer.

Ushers for this week are Burnie Clutz, Susie Clutz, Becky Hohman, John Schnebly.

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP & CALENDAR

The lector next week is Jean Simmons

Next week's ushers are Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens, Rick Waters.

Next week's Children's Church leader is Becky Hohman.

- 5/4 Sunday School 9:45am
Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30am
Sunday Worship 11:00am
Visioning Meeting – Parsonage Use 12:00pm
- 5/5 CE Team Meeting 5:30pm
Consistory Meeting 7:00pm
- 5/6 Staff Meeting 11:00am
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
- 5/7 Potluck & Devotional 6:00pm
- 5/8 Choir Practice 5:30pm
Zion Youth Fellowship 6:00pm
- 5/10 Easy-cise Class

Outreach and Service Opportunities

Micah's Backpack will be collecting **Granola Bars** during the month of **May**.

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting **Laundry Pods** for the month of **May**. 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

Arthur Grove Class – A bible-based study and discussion group for adults, led by David Ridenour and Rae Smith. - Live and available via Zoom. **Meeting ID: 876 0291 7867 Password: Peace**

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT POTLUCK & DEVOTIONAL - A Potluck dinner followed by a Devotional.

GRADUATION - Do you have a student/grandchild graduating this year? Please send us some information, such as Name, School/College, Special Interests, etc., **TODAY**. Send this information to Megan Shroyer, Ms. Kim, or the church office. We are going to celebrate all the graduates during the **May 18th** worship service.

VBS - We need some help with Vacation Bible School(VBS), June 23 – June 26. Our theme is Rocky Railway-"Jesus' power pulls us through". We have a TRAIN Station board setup in the Chapel. There are some trains that need some items on them for VBS. When the train leaves the station (board), please put your name and item on the list. All items need to be returned by June 1st. If you have any questions, please see Megan or Ms. Kim.

YOUTH GROUP FELLOWSHIP – Every Thursday from 6:00pm - 8:00pm, upstairs in the Zion Youth Room. All youth, 6-12th grade, are welcome to our Youth Group Kick-off Event. We have invited youth from other churches in our community to come and join us. For more info contact Megan or Ms. Kim.

Service Credits

CCLI Number: 6212519

May 4, 2025

Gathering music: *Praeludium in g moll*. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

How Great Thou Art. Swedish folk melody. Arr. by Dan Miller. © 2005 by Birnamwood Publications. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: *Alle Menschen Mussen Sterben*. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*. GG 39. Tune: Faithfulness. Composed by William Marion Runyan (1923). Words by Thomas O. Chisholm (1923). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee. GG 738. Tune: Maryton. Composed by Henry Percy Smith (1874). Words by Washington Gladden (1879). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Sing a New World into Being, (to the tune of HYMN TO JOY) Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GLA Publications, Inc. (All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net #A705700.) Music: HYMN TO JOY - Ludwig van Beethoven; arr. by Edward Hodges

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

Choir Anthem: *Peace in the Valley*. Composed by Thomas Andrew Dorsey.

Offertory: *Adagio*. Composed by Benedetto Marcello. © 1998 by PWM Edition, Krakow Poland. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Communion: *Here I Am, Lord*. Composed by Daniel L. Schutte. Arr. by Jack Schrader. © 1981 by OCP Publications.

Near to the Heart of God. Composed by Cleland B. McAfee. Arr. by John Innes. © 1985 by Hope Publishing Co.

It is Well with My Soul. Composed by Philip P. Bliss. Arr. by Joel Raney. © 2006 by Hope Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: *Recessional for Trumpet and Organ*. Composed by C. M. Moblard. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.