



July 6, 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

The Navy Hymn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Fanfare on "America"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Now, our mourning becomes dancing by God's gracious love.

Our sobs become belly laughs, and new songs are written from our sighs.

The punchline sat in the grave's shadows,

until God played the best joke ever on life.

So, break out loud guffaws, fill the room with giggles,

May our joy sound like April Fool's noisemakers!

Come, stoic old folks and snickering kids, come, all you curmudgeons and worriers.

We join the God who laughs with us, Who raised Jesus with a wink and a grin,

Welcoming everyone to joy ! Amen

*HYMN Purple 338

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

WORK CAMP COMMISSIONING

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING (IN UNISON)

We bless you in the name of God, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer. May you be courageous in your service, compassionate in your actions, and joyful in your fellowship. Go with our love and the light of Christ within you. Amen.

We are called to act with justice,

We are called to love tenderly,

We are called to serve one another,

To walk humbly with God. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

We believe in a God who enjoys a good laugh,
who made platypuses and penguins just for the fun of it.
We believe in a Savior who knew how to surprise people—
with healing, with hope, with resurrection.
We believe in the Spirit,
who gives us the gift of holy giggles and grace.
We believe that joy is a form of resistance,
and laughter is a taste of the kin-dom to come.
Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

Put peace into each other's hands
And like a treasure hold it;
Protect it like a candle flame,
With tenderness enfold it.

Put Christ into each other's hands,
He is love's deepest measure;
In love make peace, give peace a chance
And share it like a treasure.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 126 *From Psalms for Praying, Nan C. Merrill*

Lector: Amber Nilson

When the Divine Lover enters the human heart, all yearnings are fulfilled!
Then will our mouths ring forth with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.
Then will we sing our songs of praise to You, O Beloved of all hearts.
For gladness will radiate out for all to see; so great is your Presence among us.
Restore us to wholeness, O Healer, like newborn babes who have never strayed from You!
May all who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!
May all who go forth weeping tears of repentance, bearing seeds of Love,
Come home to You with shouts of joy, leaving sorrow behind.

Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Claire-Marie Moblard and Byron Stay

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Barb Hendershot

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac^[a] to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION A Litany of Laughter

Barb Hendershot and Rae Smith

HYMN Purple 340This Is My Song***MORNING PRAYER**

O God, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts. For the moments of laughter and unbridled joy you give to us: for opportunities to laugh at ourselves, for the belly laughs of children, for friends and family who love us because of our quirks, and not just in spite of them, for artists who give us the opportunity to see the world through the surreal, for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise, for those who have hope even when others think there is no hope, for saints in the Lord who overflow with laughter and spread your joy to all of us.

For the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds; for teaching us that we can be born again, for the woman who finds a lost coin and calls her friends and neighbors to celebrate, for the absurdity of a camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle, for the father of the Prodigal Son who is willing to look like a fool as he runs to greet his son, for the generosity of the landowner who will pay workers a whole day's wage when they only worked one hour, for tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains, for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.

For the great reversal of the Gospel: that the last shall be made first, that the rejected stone became the cornerstone, that those who wish to become great must serve, that the lost will be found, that the small will become great, that though you are Wisdom, you choose to forget our sins, that when we are weak, your strength shines through us.

O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us these gifts.

Thank you for the gift you give us that allows us to enjoy these things to the full.
We can laugh because of the most amazing thing of all – that you conquered death,
that the tomb is empty, that light shone so bright that it overcame the darkness.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Amen.

*written by April Fiet, and posted on **At the Table with April Fiet**.*

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 sins,
As we forgive those that sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever.
Amen.

*HYMN (see insert)

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

God of Our Fathers

* 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)

Generous God,
you've filled our lives with laughter,
our hearts with hope,
and our pockets with more than enough loose change and holy possibility.
We bring these gifts not out of guilt, but out of gratitude—
because you keep surprising us with love,
grace, and the kind of joy that makes us snort when we laugh.
Use what we offer—our coins and our kindness,
our time and our talents, our dollars and our dancing—
to tickle the world with resurrection joy
and to spread your love like laughter in a quiet room.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN Red 442

Not Alone for Mighty Empire

***BENEDICTION**

Go now—we will go with pockets full of laughter,
with eyes squinting from the brightness of grace,
with hearts wide open to holy surprises.

Be bold in your joy.

Be generous with your giggles.

**We will tell the good news with a grin,
and live like resurrection is the punchline
that changes everything.**

May your steps be light,
your burdens be lifted,
and your spirit be as free
as a kid on a swing in the sunshine.

The world needs our joy. Let us go to share it.

POSTLUDE

Stars and Stripes Forever

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

We will be blessed again on July 13 to have the Dr. Joni Miller back.

She will be preaching a sermon meditating on God's love of us all, God's high evaluation of us all. Following worship, she will offer the following workshop. Please RSVP, so Pastor Scott can ensure enough lunch food. Invite your friends.

Bridges & Boundaries: The Art of Knowing What to Say (and When to Stay Silent)

Want to know how to speak — and when it's wiser to stay silent? This hour-long interactive workshop draws on time-tested counseling techniques to help you communicate with greater empathy, clarity, and calm. You'll learn simple yet powerful skills that can defuse tension, deepen understanding, and keep relationships strong, even across disagreements. Together, we'll explore how your own emotions shape what you hear and say, practice attentive listening, and uncover how to build meaningful bridges with people who see the world differently. Come ready to reflect, connect, and leave with practical tools you can use right away.

Joni Miller, Ph.D. is a writer, researcher, spiritual coach, and speaker who uses her knowledge, education, and love of all things spiritual to help others find their unique spiritual path, navigating by the light of love.

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, **Alice Barr**, Beth Baseler, **Naomi Brackett**, Pat Brackett (Naomi's Sister-in-law), Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, **Kim & Bill Cook**, **Frank Ebersole**, Donna France, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Sue Graff, Beth Gross, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston, Mary Lorfing, Darrin Miller, **Teresa Moats (friend of Christine Coleman)**, **Sam Murray**, **Kevin Naylor**, **The Family of Bob Nilson (Curtis Nilson's Grandfather)**, **Craig Nilson (Curtis Nilson's Father)**, **Pastor Katie Penick**, Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, The Family of Janet Roberts, **Angie Schaff**, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, **Thelma Summers**, Margaret Wagner, **Russ Ware & Diane Ware Cantrell (son & daughter of Charley Ware)**, **Eric Wolbring**, and Angela Yamashita.

Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Amber Nilson.

Ushers for this week are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Lisa Saum, and Jean Simmons.

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP & CALENDAR

The lector for next week is Rich Owens.

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

7/6 Sunday Worship 10:00am
Mission Trip to Bern, NC – Returning on July 10th
7/8 Staff Meeting 11:00am
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
7/9 Community Resource Fair Meeting 9:30am
7/12 Easy-cise Class 9:00am

BIRTHDAYS

7/9 Ralph France

ANNIVERSARIES

7/11 Carol Ralph France

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEARNING OPTIONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES DO NOT MEET FROM MAY 25th – AUG 31st
Classes will resume on SEPTEMBER 7th

Outreach and Service Opportunities

Our **Tuesday Night Ministry** is collecting **Canned Fish and Meats** for the month of **June**. We are also in need of **empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes**.

REACH Cold Weather Shelter - Believe it or not, ZION is already signed up to cover the REACH Cold Weather Shelter on Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30. Volunteers will be needed to cook and serve dinner, clean up the kitchen, register, check, and search guests, monitor the laundry area, and provide overnight coverage. It's not too early to get these dates on your calendar. Please see Carroll Sager if you are interested in helping.

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

Service Credits

CCLI Number: 6212519

July 6

Gathering music: *The Navy Hymn*. Composed by John Dykes. Arr. by Dan Miller. © 2006 by Daniel L. Miller. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: *Fanfare on "America."* From Harmonia Angelicana. Arr. by John S. Dixon. © 2022 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*. Purple 338. Tune: Materna. Composed by Samuel Augustus Ward (1882). Words by Katharine Lee Bates (1883). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

This Is My Song. Purple 340. Tune: Finlandia. Composed by Jean Sibelius. Words by Lloyd Stone. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Not Alone for Mighty Empire. Red 442. Tune: Hyfrydol. Composed by Rowland Hugh Prichard. Words by William Pierson Merrill (1911). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy. Written and composed by George William Cooke (848 – 1923). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Special music. *Festive Processional*. Composed by David Lasky. © 1988 by Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Offertory: *God of Our Fathers*. Composed by George W. Warren. Arr. by Mary McDonald. © 2014 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLI number: 1615905

Postlude: *Stars and Stripes Forever*. Composed by John Phillip Souza. Arr. by Joseph M. Linger. © 2012 by Wayne Leopold Editions. Performed by Byron L. Stay (piccolo trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

I've Got the Joy Joy Joy

George William Cooke (1848-1923)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of four lines of music with corresponding lyrics. The first line ends with the word 'Refrain' centered below it. The second line begins with the word 'Refrain' centered above it. The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: 'I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart down in my heart down in my heart I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart down in my heart to stay. And I'm so hap-py, so ver-y hap-py, I've got the love of Je-sus in my heart, And I'm so hap-py, so ver-y hap-py, I've got the love of Je-sus in my heart.' A copyright notice '© bethsnotes.com' is located at the end of the fourth line of music.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart down in my heart down in my heart I've got the
Refrain
joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart down in my heart to stay. And I'm so hap-py, so ver-y
hap - py, I've got the love of Je - sus in my heart, And I'm so
hap - py, so ver - y hap - py, I've got the love of Je - sus in my heart.

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2. I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus

Down in my heart (*Where?*)

Down in my heart (*Where?*)

Down in my heart!

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus

Down in my heart,

Down in my heart to stay.

3. I've got the peace that passes understanding,

Deep down in the depths of my heart (*Where?*)

Deep down in the depths of my heart (*Where?*)

Deep down in the depths of my heart!

I've got the peace that passes understanding

Deep down in the depths of my heart,

Deep down in my heart to stay.