



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
November 23, 2025

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

GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Westminster Abbey (Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation)
Processional on “Westminster Abbey.”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Choral Improvisation on Now Thank We All Our God

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The world is hard
Our losses real
Our grief tangible
Our fear palpable

Merciful God, quiet our rush to judgment.

The world is heavy
Our anxiety clawing
Our confusion large
Our responsibility tenuous

Brooding God, slow our impulsive actions.

The world is mystery
Our faith rooting
Our hope kindling
Our love blossoming

Loving God, may we be quick in our understanding of your call.

~ written by Katherine Hawker, on Liturgy Outside

*HYMN Purple 367

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

PRAYER OF HOPE A thousand, a million, a trillion tongues,

Walter Brueggemann

O for a thousand tongues to sing our great redeemer's name;
To sing beyond ourselves, extravagantly, with abandonment,
beyond all our possibilities, and all our fears, and all our hopes ...

to our redeemer dear, the antidote to our death, the salve to our wounds,
the resolve of our destructiveness... A thousand, a million, a trillion tongues,
more than our own, more than our tradition, more than our theology, more than
our understanding, tongues around us, tongues among us, tongues from our
silenced parts. Tongues from us to you in freedom and in courage, finally ceding our
lives and our loves to your good care. Amen.

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.

SCRIPTURE Galatians 5:22,23, NRVS

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

We hear the Word.

We receive Holy Wisdom

ANTHEM

Make Me a Blessing

SCRIPTURE James 3:1-12, The Inclusive Bible

Lector: Rick Waters

Only a few of you, my siblings, should be teachers. You should realize that those of us who are teachers will be called to a stricter account. After all, each of us falls from time to time. However, those who never say anything wrong are truly close to perfection, because they can then control every part of themselves. Once we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we control the rest of their bodies.

The same with ships—no matter how large they are, and even if they are driven by fierce winds, they are directed by a very small rudder to wherever the captain wants to go. The tongue is like that. It's a small part of the body, yet it makes great boasts. See how tiny the spark is that sets a huge forest ablaze! The tongue is such a flame. Among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a whole wicked world in itself.

It infects the entire body. Its flames encircle our course from birth, and its fire is kindled by hell. All kinds of animals—birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea—can be tamed by us, but no one can tame the tongue. It's a restless evil, full of deadly poison. We use it to say, "Praised be our God and Creator"; then we use it to curse each other—we who are created in the image of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This shouldn't be, my sisters and brothers! Does a spring emit both pure water and brackish water? My sisters and brothers, can a fig tree produce olives, or can a grapevine produce figs? No—and neither can a fountain produce both salt water and fresh water.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Sticks and Stones Break Bones and Words Hurt

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette

HYMN Purple 336We Gather Together***PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERINGS****OFFERTORY***St. George Windsor****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.

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.
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 Purple 643

Now Thank We All Our God

*BENEDICTION A Blessing for Healing, Joyce Rupp

May the ever-present love of family and friends sustain and support you, especially in those times when you feel alone and lonely.

May you accept your worthiness to receive self-compassion, to give yourself permission to care for your inner and outer self as best you can.

May you be in touch with the resilience residing within you, a strength that enables you to go on when you feel weak and vulnerable.

May you find comfort when you are hurting, and experience a tender presence of the Holy One when you are most distressed.

May the beauty contained in gestures of kindness, and in the loveliness of nature, bring you quiet joy.

May you give yourself to restfulness when you are weary, and be content with inactivity when your body and spirit demand that you go slowly.

May you be patient when you want things to change, or when difficulties appear to be insurmountable and unmanageable.

May you be released from the burdens of fear and dread, and anything else that tries to drag your spirit into desolation.

May you discover hope in the most unexpected situations, and store this treasure in a special corner of your heart where you can easily find it.

May you sink into the peaceful embrace of the Great Healer, and may this peace permeate you with divine tenderness.

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Remain seated until the altar candles are doused.

The asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand in body or spirit.
The **BOLDFACE** indicates when the congregation is invited to speak in unison.

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, Becky Arnemann (caretaker for the Keefer family), Eddie Barr, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Kim & Bill Cook, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Beth Gross, Beth Hauver, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Dee Krause, Vicki Krouse (friend of Barb Ware), Mary Lorfing, Trish Lowman, Teresa Moats (friend of Christine Coleman), Margaret Munroe, Craig Nilson (Curtis Nilson's father), **Pastor Mary Norville** Marissa Palmer (friend of Carol Schultz), George & Mary Pietsch (Rae's daughter and son-in-law), Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), David Ridenour, **Wells Ridenour**, Angie Schaff, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, **The Family of Sandra Shaw**, Mary Stann (friend of Kim Ridenour), Cheryl (sister of Colleen Rafferty), **The Family of Kodi Taylor**, Traci Van Vogelpoel, Randy Waters (Rick Waters' brother), Christel, Christoph, and Anna Wolbring (friends of Kim Ridenour), Eric Wolbring, Angela Yamashita, and Barry Yingling.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting Hot Chocolate and Hot Cider for the month of November. We are also in need of empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes.

Micah's Backpack is collecting Individual Packets of Oatmeal for the month of November.

4-H Community Outreach project this fall is collecting new socks from October 5 – November 16th. The Leadership Club has challenged all the clubs to collect socks and the club with the most socks wins a Club Pizza party. Zion will you help the Downtown 4-H Club try to raise the most socks?

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

OPPORTUNITIES

EASY-CISE CLASS

Join us at 9:00am on the second Saturday of each month for our Easy-cise Class. "Easy-cise" is a resistance-based fitness class that helps with core and arm workouts designed for beginners, those with limited mobility, or anyone who prefers seated exercises.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The lector this week is Rick Waters.

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

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

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP & CALENDAR

The lector for next week is Burnie Clutz.

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

11/25 Staff Meeting 11:00am

Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm

11/26 Potluck & Bible Study 6:00pm

11/27 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

11/30 Sunday School for Adults and Young Adult Classes 9:45am

Children's Choir Practice 10:30am

Sunday Worship 11:00am

Children's Church 11:00am

Decorate Christmas Trees 12:00pm

BIRTHDAYS

11/26 Matt McDonald

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEARNING OPTIONS

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:45 Adult Sunday School – In-person and Zoom

Children's Sunday School Class

Middle/High School Students Sunday school-First and Third Sundays of the month in the Youth Room

Young Adult Class/Bible Study - Second and Fourth Sundays of the month - Location TBD

10:30 Children's Choir in the Music Room

10:35 Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary and virtually at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive

Children's Church – every other week

12:00 Fellowship

Young Adult Bible Study

Our Young Adult bible Study meets at 9:45 on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. This alternates with our Youth Bible Study which is on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. If you have young children, there is Children's Sunday School at the same time. We will be following a video-based curriculum called Animate.

Service Credits
CCLI Number: 6212519
November 23

Gathering music: *Westminster Abbey (Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation)*. Composed by Henry Purcel. Arr. by Richard Proulx. © 2000 by Augsburg Organ Library.

Processional on “Westminster Abbey.” Composed by Henry Purcell. Arr. by David Willocks. © 1989 by Roger Dean Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: *Choral Improvisation on Now Thank We All Our God*. Composed by John Cruger. Arr. by Sigfrid Karg Elert. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*. Purple 367. Tune: St. George’s Windsor. Composed by George Job Elvey (1858). Words by Henry Alford (1844). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

We Gather Together. Purple 336. Tune: Kresmer. Composed by Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Claink (1626). Words by Adrianus Valerius (1894). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Now thank We All Our God. Purple 643. Tune: Nun Danket Alle Gott. Composed by Johann Cruger. Words by Robert Rinkart (1858). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem: *Make Me a Blessing*. Composed by Ira B. Wilson. Words by George S. Schuler.

Offertory: *St. George Windsor*. Composed by George Elvey. Arr. by Mary McDonald. © 2014 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: *Now Thank We All Our God*, from Cantata No. 79. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1959 by H. W. Gray Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.