



May 3, 2026

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.*

Sunday Worship

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano Improvisation

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Ruthy Stenger. Many thanks for her musical leadership.

PRELUDE

Great is Thy Faithfulness

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The world belongs to God,

All: **the earth and all its people.**

One: How good and how lovely it is

All: **to live together in unity.**

One: Love and faith come together,

All: **Justice and peace join hands.**

One: If the God's disciples keep silent

All: **these stones shout aloud.**

One: Lord, open our lips,

All: **and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.**

*HYMN Purple 664

Morning Has Broken

PRAYER OF HOPE (In Unison)

Gracious God, you have called us from home and office, from classroom and board room, from kitchen chores, gardens, laptops and all the other places of our lives. You challenge us to make ourselves into a spiritual house. Jesus as the cornerstone asks us to be the beams and braces, the doors and windows of a place where all might be welcome. But sometimes our beams sag with worldly cares; our walls protect our self-interests; our doors are closed to change; and our windows are shuttered with prejudices. Reconstruct us, O God, and forgive our sin. Develop within us the spirit of Jesus, the carpenter's son, that the work we do might reflect the word you speak, both now and forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Abba who called you out of darkness into Amma's marvelous light.

Men: Once you were not a people,
Women: but now you are God's people;
Men: once you had not received mercy,
Women: but now you have received mercy.

All: Let us give thanks. Alleluia! Amen!

CHORAL RESPONSE

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 34:3-9

Jean Simmons

I will bless the Beloved at all times; a song of praise will I sing.
My soul speaks to the Beloved continually; let all who suffer hear and be glad.

O, open your hearts, friends, that your pain and loneliness be turned to Love;
And then, we shall rejoice in the Beloved together!

When I searched for Love, the Beloved answered within my heart, and all my fears
flew away. Look to the Beloved, and your emptiness will be filled,
your face will radiate Love.

For when you cry, the Beloved hears and comes to you, your troubles disappear.
The Beloved sends angels to those who call on Love,
to awaken them from their fears. O taste and see!

The Beloved is within you! Happy are all who dwell in the Beloved's heart!

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

Interpretation of Nan C. Merrill - Psalms for Praying

ANTHEM

Dem Bones

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:2-10, NRSV

Jean Simmons

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that Adonai is good.

Come to God, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in God will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, God is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of God who called you out of darkness into Holy's marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Colorful Lego Builds

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette

*HYMN Purple 611

Joyful, Joyful

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

One: This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

All: People will come from north, south, east, and west to sit at the table in the realm of God. Here in this place, the communion table is open to absolutely all beloved children of God.

One: This is Christ's table, we are invited to share the feast which he had prepared.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: May the God of new beginnings be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the one who makes all things, including us, new.

One: Children of God, sing praises to the one who gives new life.

All: We praise the one who continues to surprise us with hope and grace.

One: Before there was time, Hope of Eternity, you took a moment to bring creation out of chaos. You took time to create mountains and carve deep canyons; you made the time to fill the oceans and to plant food for all creatures; you found the time to plough rivers to water a garden, and to shape us in your image.

But we did not have time for you, preferring to spend our days chasing sin, and our nights seeking death. You always made time for us, speaking of your hopes through the prophets, sharing your dreams through the angels.

Then, one day you decided to do a new thing: becoming one of us as Jesus becoming human, to bring hope and grace. He comes not to judge us, but to forgive us; he comes not to cast us out, but to gather us into the New Jerusalem; he comes not to watch us suffer, but to live with you.

When the new heaven and new earth come Christ will make all things, including us, new. In these sacred moments, send your Spirit to sanctify the bread and the cup, and to open the hearts of those who approach the table. As the Bread of life touches our lips, may we be strengthened to serve those the world has forgotten. As the Cup of salvation quenches our thirst for you, may we be enabled to bring relief to those who wander the desert wastes of our society. And when all time ends, and all people are gathered around your Table in heaven, we will rejoice in your presence, and sing your praises forever: One God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (In unison)

O God of the high heavens,
O Christ of the deep earth,
O Spirit of the flowing waters,
You have offered Your body to us,
and here we pledge our bodies to You.
Strengthen us in our desire,
and breathe into us the passion of Your love.
We pray this in the name of Jesus,
to whom we commit ourselves. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Offertory

Hosea

*Doxology Purple 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

**God of Abundance,
God of Compassion,
God of Grace,
You have opened our eyes
You have opened our minds
You have opened our hearts
And we are grateful.
Receive now the gifts of our lives.
Change them. And change us, so that we may change the world. Amen.**

*HYMN Purple 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*CHARGE

Jesus has loved us so that we may love others. John 13:34
Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.
May God who has made you a new creation
give you the grace to grow in faith, hope, love, and justice.

*CHORAL RESPONSE

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

*POSTLUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Please remain seated until the altar candles are doused.

The asterisk () indicates an invitation to stand in body or spirit.*

The BOLD FACE indicates when the congregation is invited to speak in unison.

Ruthy Stenger Japzon is an experienced local pianist and vocalist, performing at various private and corporate functions, weddings, funerals and she is currently playing each Wednesday evening at a hotel in Reston, VA. She is a graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory where she double majored in Piano Pedagogy and Voice Performance. She was a choral music educator here in our county and she is a long-term member of the local variety band, Spectrum. She was Music Director at her home church, St. Andrew Presbyterian, for 10 years and now enjoys substituting for various churches.

A GREAT START FOR ZION'S GATHERING PLACE!

Thanks to everyone who made our soft launch of Zion's Gathering Place successful! We had 12 participants and we heard from many that they are looking forward to coming back next month! We ate, painted, exercised, and reminisced about old movies and

downtown Hagerstown during a special presentation on Henry's Theater! Our next date is May 29th - make sure you sign up by contacting the Church Office!

PEW CARDS

Please complete the pew cards and place them into the offering plate. One is for prayer concerns and the other provides your contact information so we can thank you for joining us for worship.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting Cereal - Boxes or Individual Servings - for the month of April. We are also in need of empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes. Micah's Backpack is collecting Juice Boxes for the month of April.

GRADUATION SUNDAY - MAY 17

Please let Megan or Kim know if you or someone in your family will be graduating so we can recognize and celebrate them on Graduation Sunday. We would love to honor graduates of all levels from preschool through college.

VBS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Make sure to invite your kids, grandkids and neighbors to join us June 22-25 at Zion from 6-8pm. You can sign up using this QR code.



MAY 30 - END OF YEAR PARTY FOR YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Join us at the Shroyer House from 4 to 6:30pm for a great time of games, laughter and spending time together.

WEDNESDAY EVENING POTLUCK AND STUDY GROUP

Join us each Wednesday for food and Bible Study. Bring a dish to share with others and join in the discussions, fellowship and good food. We are in a video-based study Saving Jesus Redux. You need not prepare; just come with your smiling faces and a food item to share.

SUNDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Every Sunday after worship a bunch of us get together and go out for lunch, fellowship and lots of laughter. Anyone and everyone are welcome to join us. We try to patronize a different local eatery each week. We meet up in the chapel right after worship and that is when we usually decide where we are going. Come join us whenever you can.

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.

BESTER ELEMENARY SCHOOL

Bester is one of our Micah's Backpack schools. They are currently seeking diapers, sizes 2 through 5, for families in need. We will be accepting donations of diapers through the end of April.

THE PARSONAGE

The Parsonage shines: new paint, re-surfaced and polished floors, HVAC. Please let Pastor Scott know if you can help setup Kobe's new office in the Parsonage ready before June 1.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Campaign Team is forming and will meet with Mrs. Jill White soon for training. Look forward to the excitement of resourcing our beautiful strategic plan. Jill White is a member of the Western Maryland chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and holds an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising from the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving.

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 who 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, Eddie Barr, Naomi Brackett, Pat Brackett (Naomi's sister-in-law), Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Steve Cavey (Uncle of Tina Shafer), Christ Reformed Church (Pastoral transition), Kim Cook, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Karen Howser (friend of Barb & Charly Ware), **Peggy Lowman**, Trish Lowman, Teresa Moats (friend of Christine Coleman), Craig Nilson (Curtis Nilson's father), George & Mary Pietsch, Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), David Ridenour, **Wells Ridenour**, **Scherry Sellers**, Staci Shafer, **Rae Smith**, Mary Stann (friend of Kim Ridenour), Linda & Tom VanMetre, Traci Van Vogelpoel, Margaret Wagner, Randy Waters (Rick Waters' brother), Christel Wolbring, and Barry Yingling.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The lector this week is Jean Simmons.

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

This week's Children's Church Leader is Megan Shroyer.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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

Children's Sunday School Class

Youth Church School/Confirmation Class

10:20 Children's Choir

10:30 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

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP & CALENDAR

The lector for next week is Rae Smith.

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

5/4 5:30pm, CE Committee Meeting

7:00pm, Consistory

5/5 5:00-6:30pm, Tuesday Evening Ministry

5/6 6:00pm, Potluck/Bible Study

5/7 5:30pm, Choir Practice

5/9 9:00am, Easy-cise Class

BIRTHDAYS

5/3 Mark Shroyer

SERVICE CREDITS - CCLI NUMBER: 6212519

Prelude *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, arr. Cindy Berry. For SATB. Published by Hope Publishing Co. (Catalog # C5404, UPC: 763628154042)

Refrain *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, Jill Jackson & Sy Miller

Hymns *Morning has Broken*, Eleanor Farjeon, BUNESSAN

Joyful Joyful, Hanry Van Dyke, HYMN TO JOY

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less. Edward Mote, SOLID ROCK

Anthem Dem Bones, public domain

Offertory *Hosea*, Weston Priory

Postlude *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, Scrivner/Converse