

# ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10, 2020 ☎ II:00 A.M. VIRTUAL WORSHIP



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### WE CENTER OURSELVES ON GOD

↑An invitation to stand ↓An invitation to sit  
Congregational Responses are in **bold**.

GATHERING MUSIC

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Lowry

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Katie Penick

PRELUDE/MEDITATION

“God Is Here! As We Your People Meet”

Greene/Leigh

*“Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.”*

*~ William Makepeace Thackeray ~*

↑CALL TO WORSHIP

Dwyer Family

Jesus said, “I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again.”

**We gather in this place to know your presence and your love, now and always.**

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. If you know me, you know God.”

**We pray to know you more deeply, that we may know God more intimately, now and always.**

Jesus said, “Ask me for anything, and I will do it.”

**Help us to ask for the right things, Lord Jesus Christ, that we may fulfill your will, now and always.**

Jesus said, “Believe in me,” and “Follow me.”

**Help us to fully believe and to follow you — now and always.**

PRAYER OF CELEBRATION AND LAMENT FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Dwyer Family

As a community, we take time to pause and give thanks for the gift of mothers.

**Shining a light on the gift, shadows fall, and we acknowledge the shadows, too.**

We celebrate and give thanks, each of us, for our mother. The woman who carried us in her womb, gave birth to us, brought us into life.

**We lament, each of us, separation from our mother at different times, through conflict, distance of place, death. We lament, seek to forgive and be forgiven.**

We celebrate and give thanks, each of us, for those who have been as mothers to us; our aunts, sisters, friends, mentors, and teachers. The women who have nurtured, taught, encouraged, shaped us with love.

**We lament, each of us, the women who have caused us pain, who have abandoned or neglected us, mistakenly or intentionally caused us harm. We lament the hurt we have caused to women, our friends, colleagues, neighbors, sisters, aunts and mothers. We lament, seek to forgive and be forgiven.**

We celebrate and give thanks, together, for the women in our communities. That women and men are different invites us into partnership, invites us to share the burdens and the joys of life. For the many strengths of women, their gifts of peace-making, nurture, education, entrepreneurship, healing, wisdom, creativity, endurance, collaboration, physicality – and so much more, we are grateful.

**We lament, together, that women are still discounted because they are women, in our culture and in others. That the difference between women and men is seen as threatening, a power struggle, a competition or a hierarchy, is not, we know, your dream for us. We lament, seek to forgive and be forgiven.**

We celebrate, those of us who are mothers and grandmothers, the joy and privilege it is to collaborate with you in the creation of life. We give thanks for our children, their uniqueness, the delight we find in watching and helping them grow.

**We lament, those of us who are not mothers and want to be, or who are mothers of children who have died. We lament, and have no words for our grief.**

We celebrate, we give thanks, for you, our mothering God, whose wings enfold us like those of a mother hen, who gives birth to all that lives, who loves fiercely, protectively,

and with great delight. We celebrate what we know of you as like a mother.

**We lament our turning from you and causing you pain, our rejection of your gifts of life and love in so many ways. We seek your forgiveness again and again.**

Again and again, God welcomes us home, as a mother welcomes her children.

**Again and again, God celebrates us, God's children, delights in watching and helping us grow.**

Come, now, under the wings of God;

**Come, now, into the warmth of Love.**

You are forgiven. You are loved.

**Precious child of your Mothering God.**

*~ Silence is kept ~*

LORD'S PRAYER

Unison

**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. And 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

"Blessed Assurance"

Crosby/Knapp

## **WE LISTEN AND REFLECT**

READING FROM THE BIBLE

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 14:1-14

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

MESSAGE ***BUILDING THE KINGDOM, STONE BY STONE***

Rev. Katie Penick

**WE GO IN PEACE**

↓BENEDICTION

Responsive

POSTLUDE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Medley\*

Various\*

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

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\*See Credits On Last Page

## NOTICES

**Prayer Needs:** Kelly Bedard, Holly Bell, Linda Cantilena, Derrice Combs, Kim Cook, Ruth Dwyer, Elan Foutch, Mike Heyser, Jeanne France Hvidding, Ann Kalinoski, Anne Kaylor, Mike Lorfing, David Ridenour, Scherry Sellers, Diana Shafer, Staci Shafer, Kathy Wallech.

**Happy Birthday!** Marilyn Newlin's is the 11th, Kelly Weicht's is the 13th.

**Records from Sunday, May 3:** Virtual Service, No Onsite events or activities.

**Never miss a Sunday sermon!** When you can't make it to church during times of illness or pandemic, you can still watch the sermon. Go to our YouTube channel "Zion Reformed UCC." Streaming of the Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am but you can view the videos of past services anytime.

## STAFF

Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Rev. Katie Penick, Interim Minister (240)418-8028; Susan Younkins, Church Administrator/Financial Recording Secretary; Lisa Saum, Treasurer; Claire Marie Moblard, Director of Music/Organist; Byron L. Stay, Choir Director.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this congregation is to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to celebrate the sacraments, to share Christian fellowship and unity within the congregation and the community, to render loving service toward all people, to strive for righteousness, justice and peace, and to grow in spirit and in membership. (Adapted from 1987/Approved Nov. 7, 2000)

## CREDITS

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**Call to Worship & Lament:** Dwyer Family, Zion Reformed UCC Members.

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**New Testament Lesson Lector:** Ruth Dwyer, Zion Reformed UCC Members.

**Sermon – “Building the Kingdom, Stone by Stone”** by Rev Katie Penick, Interim Minister, Zion Reformed UCC.

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