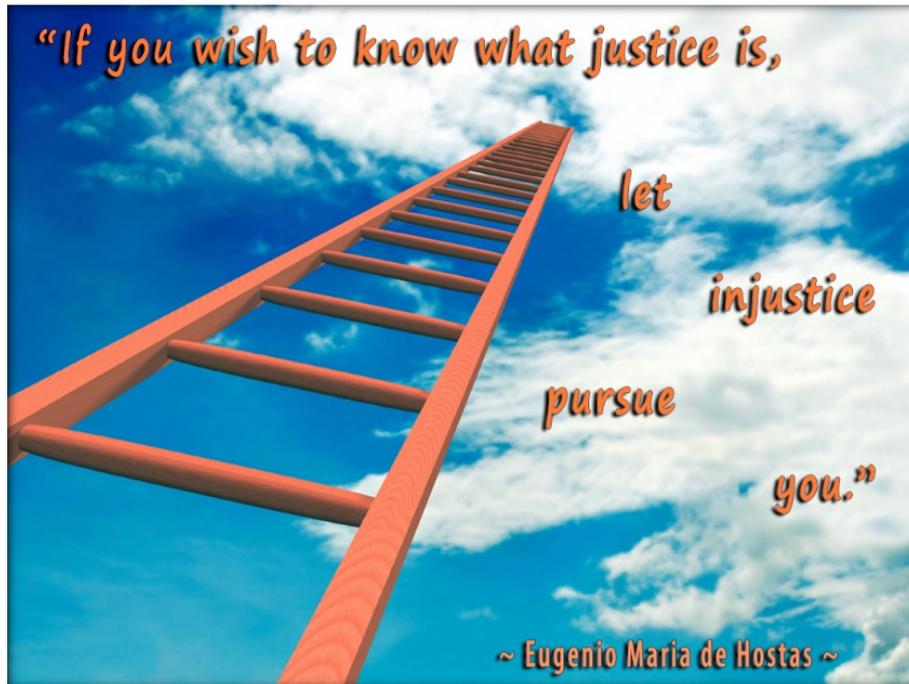


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 19TH, 2020 ☺ 10 A.M.



WELCOME to *your* faith community! We are glad to worship with you today, in-person or virtually and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together. Zion Reformed United Church of Christ is a congregation with over 250 years in Hagerstown and rooted in Christ's love. We are an ever-changing community, striving to become more like Christ every day. 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. Let us worship together today!

Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines and to wear a face mask at all times if worshipping with us in-person. Additionally, passing of the offering plates has been suspended according to safety guidelines. Offering plates are located at the entrances for your convenience instead.

↑An invitation to stand ↓An invitation to sit
Congregational Responses are in **bold**.
Please silence all mobile devices.

We Gather

Prelude to Service

Words of Welcome

We Prepare

Prelude to Worship

↑ Call to Worship

One: We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see God in this community of seekers.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.

All: Surely God is in this place! Let us praise the One who comes to us!

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Come, We Who Love the Lord (Red, 30)

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

Based on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

God of Mercy and Hope, you plant us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed to know that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be. When we deprive others of that same opportunity, **forgive us.**

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field, **forgive us.**

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are and recognize them as one of your own beloved children, **forgive us.**

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat, **forgive us.**

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there, **forgive us.**

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we open our mouths to speak.

So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected,

the lonely and the outcast,

and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

~silence is kept~

Words of Blessing

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 28:10-19a (NRSV)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was

afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Hymn Time

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go (red, 278)
Requested by David Ridenour

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (MSG)

He told another story. "God's kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too. "The farmhands came to the farmer and said, 'Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn't it? Where did these thistles come from?' "He answered, 'Some enemy did this.' "The farmhands asked, 'Should we weed out the thistles?' "He said, 'No, if you weed the thistles, you'll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I'll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.' " Jesus dismissed the congregation and went into the house. His disciples came in and said, "Explain to us that story of the thistles in the field." So he explained. "The farmer who sows the pure seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the pure seeds are subjects of the kingdom, the thistles are subjects of the Devil, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, the curtain of history. The harvest hands are angels. "The picture of thistles pulled up and burned is a scene from the final act. The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the thistles from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them. They are going to complain to high heaven, but nobody is going to listen. At the same time, ripe, holy lives will mature and adorn the kingdom of their Father. "Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

Video Reflection

Even There

Message

Climbing the Ladder

WE RESPOND

Hymn of Praise

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name (Red, 32)

Our Gifts are Blessed

Prayer of Dedication

All: Loving God, we offer back to you what we have been given: our treasure, our time, and our lives. Bless our gifts and multiply them for your purposes. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Postlude to Worship

WE ARE SENT

Sending Forth

One: God's spirit is always with you.

All: Wherever we go, God is there!

One: If you ascend to heaven,

All: God is there.

One: If you settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

All: God is there.

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Newsletter Deadline

All submissions must be turned in by July 20th.

Soup Kitchen – Carryout Only (Team 3)

July 21st, 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers welcome.
Help spread the word to our local community.

Major Restoration & Maintenance Projects Underway

Parking lot expansion is coming along, and sanctuary restoration is completed.

Worship Planning Committee Meeting

July 23rd, 11am in chapel.

4H Club Meeting

July 23rd, 4pm. Zoom Meeting.

Celebrate Recovery

July 24th, 7pm in chapel

Sunday Worship/Food Collection Sunday

Foods collected for the Soup Kitchen, Micah's Backpack, and Neighborhood Food Bank.
July 26th, 10am in chapel

 HELPING HANDS 	This Week	Next Week
Greeters	Susan Clutz Burnie Clutz	Kent Shaffer Becky Owens
Ushers	Gerry Saum Lisa Saum	Bill Brewer James Minnich
Lector	Carol Mooers	Rae Smith
Soup Kitchen	7/21 Team 3	7/28 Team 4

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Prayer of Brokenness written by Moira Laidlaw and adapted by Rev Katie Penick.

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