

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 26TH, 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

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship

“Dawn”

WE PREPARE

↑ Call to Worship

Based on Genesis 1 and John 1

One: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,

All: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

One: Then God said, “Let there be light.”

All: What has come into being was life, and the life was the light of all people.

One: And God created all things for God.

All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.

One: God created all things for good.

All: Christ has come to make all things new. Let us celebrate and worship Christ together!

↑ Opening Prayer

↓ Opening Hymn

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing” (NCH #303)

↑ Psalter Reading

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

One: O give thanks to God, call on God’s name, make known God’s deeds to all peoples.

All: Sing to God, sing praises to God, tell of all God’s wonderful works.

One: Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

All: Seek God and God’s strength; seek God’s presence continually.

One: Remember the wonderful works God has done. God’s miracles and the judgments God has uttered.

All: O descendants of God’s servants, Abraham and Sarah, children of Jacob, God’s chosen ones.

One: God is the Sovereign, our God, whose judgments are in all the earth.

All: God is mindful of the covenant forever, of the word that God commanded, for a thousand generations.

One: The covenant made with Abraham, God’s sworn promise to Isaac:

All: Which was confirmed to Jacob as a statute to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

One: Saying: “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion of the inheritance.”

All: Praise be to God!

↓Worship Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”
Requested by Rae Smith

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 29:15-28 (NRSV)
Lector: Rae Smith

Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’ Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:31-52 (NRSV)

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet: 'I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.' Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen! 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

WE RESPOND

Offertory Hymn

"Peace I Leave with You, My Friends" (NCH #249)

Our Gifts are Blessed

Prayer of Dedication

All: Grow these gifts in your love. Bless our offerings, our hearts and our hopes in your love to make us worthy of your work for your Beloved Community on Earth and in Heaven. Be among us here, even now and fill these gifts and each of us with your goodness. 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.

WE ARE SENT

Prelude to Service

"Te Deum"

Sending Forth!

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of July 27th to August 2nd

Christian Education Ministry Team Meeting

July 27th, 7:30pm

Tech Team Planning Meeting

July 28th, 3:30pm in Burhans Room

Soup Kitchen – Carryout Only (Team 4)

July 28th, 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers welcome.

Sunday Worship



Communion Sunday, August 2nd, 10am in chapel

Parking Lot Expansion Project

Parking lot expansion is coming along well and remains underway.

UCC Peace Face Masks Available by Donation

See Pastor Katie or Becky Owens to reserve your UCC face mask

|  HELPING HANDS  | This Week (7/26) | Next Week (8/2) |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Greeters | Kent Shaffer Becky Owens | Barb Hendershot |
| Ushers | Bill Brewer James Minnich | Richard Cantilena Ed Patterson Kim Ridenour Kent Shaffer |
| Lector | Rae Smith | Daisy Schlotterbeck |
| Soup Kitchen | 7/28 Team 4 | 8/4 Team 1 |

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION THIS WEEK

4H Club Meeting

July 30th, 4pm by Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

July 24th, 7pm in chapel

RESOURCE CREDITS

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Gathering Music (pre-service): "Ciacona in D Minor" [PWC 41, T.204, PC 147, POP 14], a Baroque Era organ chaconne composed by Johann Pachelbel (1683-1689), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard, Zion Reformed UCC Director of Music/Organist. All rights reserved.

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Credits Music: "Kiss the Sky" Performed by Aakash Gandhi. Retrieved from YouTube Audio Library. All rights reserved, used with permission.

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: 9-12, Monday through Friday

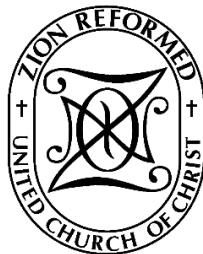
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