

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 2ND, 2020 @ 10 A.M.

COMMUNION SUNDAY



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: FACE TO FACE

WELCOME to *your* faith community, Zion Reformed United Church of Christ! We are glad to worship with you today, in-person or virtually, and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in God's presence. We are a congregation with over 250 years in Hagerstown, rooted in God's love. We are an ever-changing community, striving to become more like Christ every day. God is still speaking. The mission of this congregation is to worship God by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrating the sacraments, sharing Christian fellowship and unity within our congregation and community, and rendering loving service towards all people while striving for righteousness, justice and peace to grow in spirit and in membership. Let us worship together today!

During this time of dealing with the ongoing pandemic, please remember to follow social distancing guidelines and to wear a face mask at all times while in the church as we show Christ's compassion by loving our neighbors safely. Additionally, passing of the offering plates has been suspended according to safety guidelines. Offering plates are located at the entrances instead to place your tithes and offerings in at your convenience.

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

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

"Phantasia No. 4" [1]

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" [2]

WE PREPARE

↑ Call to Worship

One: The day breaks:

All: And God does not let us go.

One: The hour calls:

All: And God does not let us go.

One: The evening falls:

All: And God holds us fast.

One: Let us turn to God in worship:

All: God, who never turns from us.

↑Gathering Prayer

One: God, you see us. You see our struggles, You see our difficulties.

All: You see our possibilities, You see our promise.

One: Show us the path to your beautiful vision of community, O God.
Soften the hard places with your blessing.

**All: Call us in our wandering to hear You say our names.
Satisfy our longings as with loaves and fishes and manna
from heaven.**

One: For You are good, O God, a God present in the scramble,
and in the end, You always, always have a blessing.

**All: For this and so much more, we give You thanks, through
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

↓Gathering Hymn

“Great Is Your Faithfulness” (NCH #423) [3]

↑Call to Reconciliation [4]

One: God is present to us, but we don't always feel it. God is good to us, but we can't always accept it. Fact is, there are things within and around us that attempt to step between us and our relationship to God's goodness. There are things that we think, things that we do, that act to separate us from God. The church calls that “sin.”

Let us come to God, in the presence of each other, and confess the ways that we are separate from one another and from God.

Silence Is Kept

God of all mercy: I confess that sin grips me and I cannot break free. The sins in my mind, on my lips, in my acts done or even ignored stand between me and You.

All: My entire heart is not always Yours. My love of neighbor falls short. In the name of Jesus, --have mercy on me.

One: Grant me Your renewing forgiveness. Lead me on Your paths of righteousness, and I shall delight in You. And I shall follow You giving glory to Your holy name.

All: Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

↑Words of Blessing

One: The God who gives, gives all. The God who loves, loves all. The God who forgives, forgives all.

Through Christ, our sins, every one of them:
the sins of commission,
the sins of omission,
the sins we confessed with contrition –
All are forgiven.

All: My entire heart is not always Yours. My love of neighbor falls short. In the name of Jesus, --have mercy on me.

One: Grant me Your renewing forgiveness. Lead me on Your paths of righteousness, and I shall delight in You. And I shall follow You giving glory to Your holy name.

All: By the grace of God, we are forgiven. Alleluia!

↓Worship Hymn

“When Peace, Like A River (It Is Well With My Soul)” (NCH #438) [5]

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 32:22-31 (NRSV)
Lector: Daisy Schlotterbeck

²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

New Testament Lesson (Gospel)

Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Message

We Can Do It!

WE RESPOND

Our Gifts Are Blessed

The passing of the offering plates has been suspended according to safety guidelines. Offering plates are located at the entrances instead to place your tithes and offerings in at your convenience.

Offertory Video Reflection

“The Calling”

Prayer of Dedication:

**All: May this act of giving bring about change:
change in our lives,
change in the lives we touch,
change in the systems that harm.
Through Christ, who gave so much to save. Amen.**

Sacrament of Communion

Preparing Our Hearts for Communion “Let Us Break Bread Together” (NCH #330) ^[6]

Invitation:

One: When Jesus sat at tables and broke bread with tax collectors and lawyers, powerful leaders and poor peasants, he proclaimed that God’s gracious love and abiding presence know no boundaries. Through the sharing of food, women and men experienced God. They shared in God Community, where all are welcome, worthy, and invited; lives are transformed and empowered; and the fruits of God’s gentle justice bloom throughout all Creation.

All: All people, including each of us, are invited to share in this sacred meal of celebration, and be strengthened by the presence of God in this place.

Prayer of Remembrance:

One: We remember that Jesus fed hungry people with five loaves of bread and two fish. At this wonder-filled meal, there was such an abundance of food that everyone ate until they were full – and there were even twelve baskets of food left over.

All: Holy God, we celebrate Your abundant care and solidarity, revealed in this meal.

One: We remember that Jesus joined a great banquet with Levi, the despised tax collector. And despite the complaints of some, Jesus welcomed Levi, and invited him to repent and enjoy a fresh beginning at life.

All: Holy God, we celebrate Your transforming presence, revealed in this meal.

One: We remember that while sharing a meal with Pharisees, Jesus welcomed a woman labelled as an outsider. As the woman anointed his feet with oil, Jesus declared her dignity before everyone at the meal.

All: Holy God, we celebrate Your gracious inclusiveness, revealed in this meal.

One: At these meals, Jesus, and the women and men disciples resisted the divisions, injustice, and violence of society. They lived out a dream of a Beloved Community - a place of love, justice, and mutuality. Today we celebrate these meals and ministries. But we also recognize that not all people liked Jesus' ministry, and some even plotted against him. Jesus' life became endangered.

When his arrest seemed near, Jesus ate a meal in an upper room with the disciples. As he had done so many times before, he took bread and after having given thanks to You, Holy God, he broke it and gave it to the disciples, this time saying, "Do this to remember me." After the meal he shared wine, gave thanks, and said, "I will not drink from this cup again until I drink it with you in the Kingdom of God." To some of his frightened disciples it seemed that the bread symbolized his broken body, and the wine his blood. It also seemed like injustice and violence killed Jesus and his ministry. But the resurrection provided a new hope. There were more meals – and more ministries!

We thank you, Holy God, that the last supper wasn't the last meal – or the last word! At an evening meal in Emmaus, Jesus once again ate with the disciples. His execution wasn't the end. His presence and ministry continued in a new way. Jesus once more took bread, and having given thanks to You, Holy God, he broke it and gave it to the disciples, revealing that Your steadfast love is stronger than death – and your ministry, with us, for the sake of your Beloved Community, continues.

God's Beloved Community continues today – through the many women and men who seek to be your resurrection community. Despite the divisions, violence, and injustice in the world, God continually brings forth renewed

hope for love, justice, and mutuality to and through each of us. Therefore, Holy God, in the sharing of this bread and wine, we joyfully celebrate the hope-inspiring ministry and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Table Blessing:

One: Gracious God, may this meal, for us, be an "Emmaus meal," where we encounter your presence in the sharing of this food, as the disciples did at their meal in Emmaus. May the sharing of this food strengthen us to be your joyful and hopeful disciples. And may we share in your vision of love, justice, and mutuality with those around us. Amen!

People's Blessing:

All: Holy God, bless each of us, and the meal we will share, so we may be: opened to your abiding presence; nourished by your gracious love; and strengthened by your resurrection power. Amen!

We Commune:

The Meal is Shared, All are Welcome at God's Table!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

"Prelude In C-Major"

Sending Forth!

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Week of August 3rd to August 9th

CHURCH NEWS:

Prayer Requests: Submit your prayer requests to the church office by phone or email. The prayer request list can be emailed or mailed to you so we can pray for one another.

UCC Peace Face Masks - Available by donation, see Becky Owens to get yours today.

Parking Lot Expansion Project - Parking lot expansion project continues.

 HELPING HANDS 		
	This Week (Sunday 8/2)	Next Week (Sunday 8/9)
Greeters	Barb Hendershot	Becky Owens Rich Owens
Ushers	Richard Cantilena Ed Patterson	Burnie Clutz Susie Clutz David Rhodes John Schnebly
Lector	Daisy Schlotterbeck	Barb Hendershot
Soup Kitchen	8/4 - Team 1 Serves	8/11 - Team 2 Serves
Tech Team	Chris Emmert Michael Jones	Chris Emmert Michael Jones

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tech Team Meeting - August 3rd, 3:30pm in Burhans Room

Consistory Meeting - August 3rd, 7:00pm via Zoom

Soup Kitchen (carryout only) - August 4th, 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers welcome!

4-H Downtown Hagerstown - (A Washington County UMD Extension Partner Group)
August 6th, 4pm by Zoom

Celebrate Recovery Hagerstown by Celebration Ministries

August 7th, 7pm in chapel

Sunday Worship - August 9th, 10am in chapel or virtually

WORSHIP CREDITS

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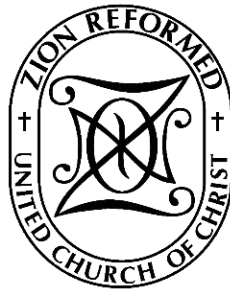
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