

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 ☺ 10 A.M.



*BOLD MOVES*

**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 history. An ever-changing community, striving to become more like Christ every day.

Rev Debra Peters-Wilcox joins us today as our Guest Celebrant while Pastor Katie is still not feeling well and remains in our prayers.

Let us worship together!

↑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

"Eternal Ruler" (Red, 411)

## *WE PREPARE*

↑ Call to Worship

One: In the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit,

**All: Amen.**

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**All: It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.**

One: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.

**All: God meets us here.**

One: We have gathered to worship the Maker of our days, the Restorer of our souls, and the Breath of our lives.

↑Gathering Prayer

One: Maker of our days, you created each of us unique beings with differing strengths and weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses.

**All: Restorer of our souls, you have seen the parched places we have made in our lives, along with the devastation thrust upon us by the action or inaction of others. Meet us in the places of our deepest pain so that our facades of self-sufficiency might fall away, and we might be drawn into right relationship with you and with one another.**

One: Breath of our lives, without you we are but a mound of clay. Fill us with your presence, invigorate our worship, set us on fire so that others might be drawn into your light and nurtured by the warmth of your loving care.

**All: Amen.**

↓Gathering Hymn

“God Is Here Today”

↑Prayer of Brokenness & Hope

One: When we try to go it on our own, lacking faith in divine providence,

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

One: When we have not recognized God at work in the faith of others,

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

One: In all that we have done, and all that we have left undone,

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*(silent reflection)*

↑Words of Assurance

One: God calls each of us by name and cries out with tears of joy as we recognize God in our admission of need.

**All: Praise be to God who welcomes us as we are, challenges us to let go of our guilt, and provides a way for us to walk on together! Amen.**

*WE MEDITATE*

↓Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 45:1-15 (NRSV)  
Lector: Rae Smith

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you

to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

#### Video Reflection

"God of the New"

#### ↓ Gospel Lesson

Matthew 15:10-28 (NRSV)

<sup>10</sup> Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: <sup>11</sup> it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup> He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup> But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup> Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." <sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of

Israel.”<sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”<sup>26</sup> He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”<sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Message

Widening the Table

*WE RESPOND*

Offertory Invite

Offertory Hymn

“What A Mighty God We Serve”

Our Gifts are Blessed

Prayer of Dedication

One: Holy God, you are our provider.

**All: May we offer you not the leftovers of our resources and our lives, God, but let these gifts be but part of what we give back to you, as we seek to serve your people and your creation. 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

“There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy” (Red, 85)

Sending Forth!

*GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!*

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of August 17<sup>th</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>

## September Newsletter Deadline

Newsletter submissions must be turned into the office by August 17<sup>th</sup>

## Tech Team Planning Committee Meeting

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm in Burhans Room

## Soup Kitchen – Carryout Only

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers welcome.

## Zion Book Club

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm

## Sunday Worship



Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am

## Parking Lot Expansion Project

The wall behind the apartments has begun being built.

## UCC Peace Face Masks Available by Donation

See Becky Owens or contact the office to get your UCC face mask today!

 <b>HELPING HANDS</b> 	<b>This Week (8/16)</b>	<b>Next Week (8/23)</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	N/A	Susan Clutz Burnie Clutz
<b>Ushers</b>	N/A	Volunteers Needed
<b>Lector</b>	Rae Smith	Burnie Clutz
<b>Soup Kitchen</b>	8/18 Team 3	8/25 Team 4

## OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION THIS WEEK

### 4H Club Meeting

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 4pm by Zoom

### Celebrate Recovery

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm in chapel

## RESOURCE CREDITS

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

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Office Hours: 9-12, Monday through Friday

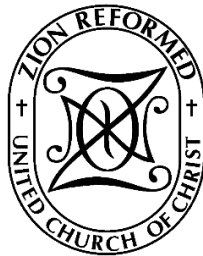
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