

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 ☺ 10 A.M.



Be Transformed

**WELCOME** to *your* faith community! We are glad to worship virtually with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together. Zion Reformed United Church of Christ has roots over 250 years in the making, but we know God is still speaking even today. Just as our world is ever-changing so we too constantly strive to change daily to become more like Christ.

Pastor Katie's health continues to improve, and she joins us in worship today from her home. Please continue to keep her in your prayers and let's give her a warm virtual welcome back! Please note that services will remain virtual only for two more weeks with us returning to an in-person/virtual combination on Rally Day, September 13<sup>th</sup> when worship time changes back to 11am and some Sunday School options return. Let us worship together!

## *WE GATHER*

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship

"All Creatures of our God" (Red, 15)

## *WE PREPARE*

↑ Call to Worship

One: God whispers to each of us, you are my beloved – created in love for love.

**All: My Spirit answers, Here I am God. Speak to me anew.**

One: God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, knitting many members into one body – the body of Christ.

**All: Together we answer, here we are God. Come Holy Spirit.**

One: God calls out to us today: Who will work for God to extend God's realm into a hurting world?

**All: Here we are God. Empower us for your work.**

One: God calls the small and helps them do great things. God lifts the weak and reveals their hidden gifts. God reaches out to the rejected and opens their eyes to their worth.

**All: Here we are God, ready to respond to your calling Word.**

One: Let us gather, old and young; small and great. Let us dream God's dreams, receive God's Grace and do God's work.

**All: Here we are God. Shine the light of your love on us, so that through us the world may be one.**

↑ Gathering Prayer

↓ Gathering Hymn

"Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling" (NCH #67)

↑ Litany of Faith

One: When Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,  
"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

**All: They replied: "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."**

One: Then he asked them, "But you—who do you say I am?"

**All: You are the Bread of Life, which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**

One: You are the Good Shepherd, who lays down His own life for the sheep in His care.

**All: You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the path by which we come to know God the Creator.**

One: You are the Light of the World, illuminating the way for all who walk in darkness.

**All: You are the Resurrection and the Life, the source of eternal life for all who believe.**

One: You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and our redeemer.

### *WE MEDITATE*

↓Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10 (NRSV)

Lector: Burnie Clutz

<sup>1:8</sup> Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. <sup>13</sup> The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the

midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

<sup>2:1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. <sup>4</sup> His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup> The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" <sup>8</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Reflection Hymn

"God the Omnipotent" (Red #405)

↓ Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSV)

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Message

Great Is Your Faith

*WE RESPOND*

Offertory Hymn

"I Am Yours, O Lord" (NCH #455)

Our Gifts are Blessed

Prayer of Dedication

**All: Holy God, you are our provider. We dedicate to your service our lives and these offerings from your blessing and our labor. Work in us and through us to extend your love and care, here and around the world. Amen.**

*WE ARE SENT*

Prelude to Service

"When I Survey the Wonderous Cross"

Sending Forth!

*GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!*

# **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Week of August 24<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>

## **Rally Day**

Rally Day is Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at which time our service time changes back to 11am and modified Sunday School options will return (stay tuned for more information).

## **UCC Peace Face Masks Available by Donation**

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

## **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.

 <b>HELPING HANDS</b> 		
Helping Hands ministry outreach has been temporarily suspended except for that of lector and soup kitchen due to service format changes during the pandemic while we meet virtually, and in the chapel. Soup kitchen closed beginning Sep 1 <sup>st</sup> until further notice. Watch for notification for these outreach opportunities to return.		
	<b>This Week (8/23)</b>	<b>Next Week (8/30)</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Burnie Clutz	Amber Nilson
<b>Soup Kitchen</b>	8/25 Team 4	Closed Temporarily

## **IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:**

### **Christian Education Ministry Team Meeting**

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

### **Tech Team Planning Meeting**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm in Burhans Room

### **Soup Kitchen – Carryout Only**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers welcome.

### **4H Club Meeting**

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 4pm by Zoom

### **Celebrate Recovery**

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the chapel

### **Sunday Worship**

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am, Virtual Only

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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

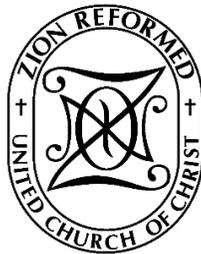
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