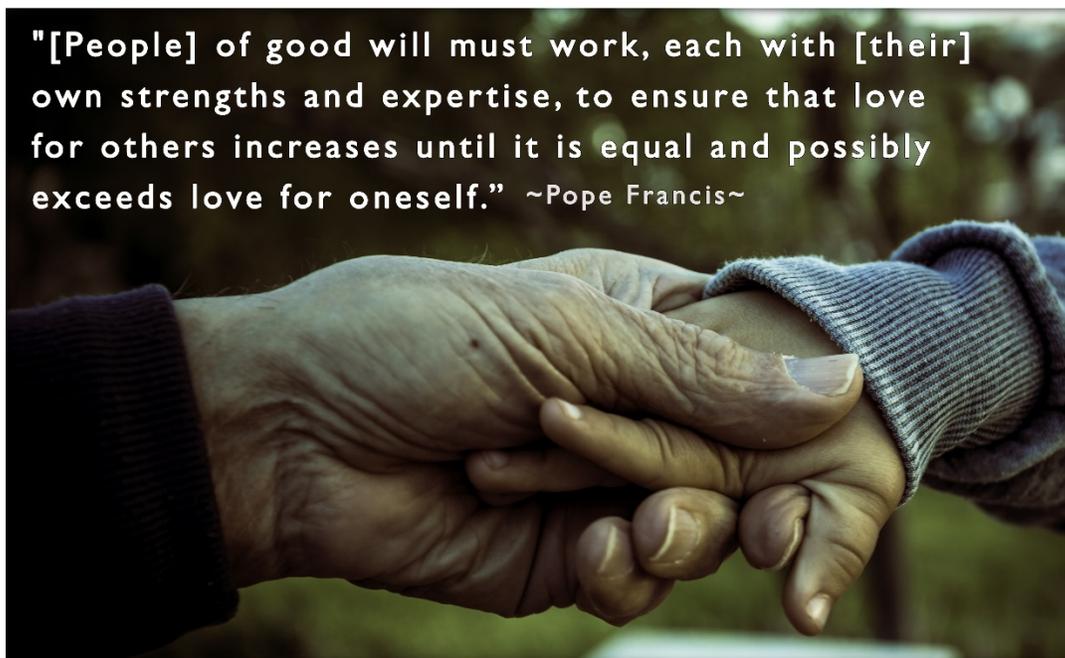


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 6th, 2020 @ 10 A.M.



*Remember * Restore * Renew*

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 has been cleared to return to church by now testing negative for coronavirus. She will return next week for Rally Day. In-house Sunday Worship returns next week in the Chapel. Remember worship time changes back to 11am, and Adult Sunday School begins at 9:45am in the Burhans Room. Worship will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in-person.

Today we welcome Guest Celebrant, Reverend Kyle Powderly, who is joining us from Costa Rica where he and his wife teach English as a second language. Let us worship our God together in spirit, mind, and deed!

WE GATHER

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship

“We Thank Thee Dear Lord Jesus Christ”

WE PREPARE

↑ Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 149

One: Sing to God a brand new song; praise God in the company of all who love the LORD.

All: We celebrate our Sovereign Creator, we rejoice in our Maker! We give thanks for the blessings poured out on us at every moment of life!

One: Let God’s faithful people sing out from wherever they’re sitting;

All: We will shout the high praises of God!

↓ Gathering Hymn

“We’ve A Story to Tell”

↑ Prayer of Praise and Reconciliation

All: God of Infinite blessing, we thank you and praise you for your unstoppable love that continues to sustain us all our days. We want to live as people filled with gratitude and joy, with Christ among us as our peace, but we confess we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. Forgive us our stubbornness, our shortness of sight, our sin. Help us to love what you command, and desire what you promise; that in the midst of this changing world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found: in Jesus Christ our Lord...

~ silent reflection ~

↑ Assurance of Pardon

WE MEDITATE

↓Gospel Lesson

Mark 10:17-31 (NRSV)
Lector: Carroll Sager

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother."" ²⁰ He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Reflection Hymn

"For the Fruit of All Creation" (NCH #425)

↓Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

¹ We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ² for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means,

and even beyond their means, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵ and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶ so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. ⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸ I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰ And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— ¹¹ now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹² For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³ I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴ your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵ As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

The Message

“Labor of Love”

Prayer of Celebration and Lament for Labor Sunday

One: God of Grace, you have gifted us with a world of abundance; a land of plenty; a country where all can have enough. We come before you this day to thank you for this prosperity and to ask your justice for and blessing on those who labor for us. We pray for those who are hungry.

All: We pray harder that You might show us how we can feed them.

One: We pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

All: We pray harder for You to open our hearts to help them.

One: We pray for the sick and lonely.

All: We pray harder for those who labor to give them comfort.

One: We pray for those who are paid unjust wages.

All: We pray harder for them as they are put in danger in this pandemic.

One: Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old.

All: A world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. A world where those who serve and care for others are, themselves, also served and cared for.

One: On this day—on every day—bless those who work in ways that benefit only others; strengthen them, keep them safe, and teach all people to be kind and grateful towards those who labor.

Worship Hymn

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind” (NCH #502)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer:

One: On this day of rejoicing, O God of our ancestors, as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember that through the Body & Blood of Jesus you redeemed us and made us pass over from death to new life.

All: With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion of the Body of Christ wherever we may be. May your church always honor the presence of the Lord in the humble and the suffering,

All: and may we learn to recognize each other as sisters and brothers gathered together around your table.

One: Grant that, as we celebrate your mighty deeds, we may be one with Jesus in offering you this sacrifice of praise. *Santo, Santo, Santo: nuestra corazones te adoran. Nos corazones se alegra de decir, "Santo eres,*

Señor. "And so, we join our voices together now with all the faithful throughout time and space as we pray together the prayer Jesus gave us, saying...

Lord's Prayer:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer of Remembrance & Blessing:

One: On the night that Jesus gave himself over to death for us, He took the bread of the Passover seder and, after He had given thanks, He broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, all of you, and eat. This is my body, broken for you. As often as you take it, do it in remembrance of me." In a like manner, when the meal was ended, Jesus took the final cup, known as the Cup of the Covenant. Again, He gave God thanks, then gave the cup to the disciples, saying, "Take, each of you, and drink. This is the cup of the covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. As often as you drink, do it in remembrance of me." For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim our Lord's death and resurrection until he comes again in glory. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, taste and see that they are good!

The Meal is Shared:

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

All: Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior, Amen!

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

Sending Forth!

One: As Christ's own, be watchful, stand firm in your faith,
be courageous and strong.

All: Let all that we do be done in love.

One: Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience,
forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you,

**All: and we will crown all these things with God's love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
Thanks be to God!**

One: Thanks be to God, Amen!

Prelude to Service

"Bach Prelude in F Major"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Submit your prayer requests to the church office by phone at 301.739.7244 or email at zionrucc@myactv.net so we can pray for one another. The prayer list of names can be emailed or mailed to you upon request due to privacy concerns.

HELPING HANDS:



Helping Hands ministry outreach has been temporarily suspended except for that of lector due to service format changes during the pandemic while we meet virtually, and in the chapel. Watch for notification for these outreach opportunities to return.

Lector This Week (9/6): Carroll Sager

Lector Next Week (9/13): Wells Ridenour

If unable to serve during your designated week, please contact the church office by Wednesday of the week prior to service so a replacement can be found.

Not all superheroes wear capes....



#thankyoukeyworkers

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of September 7th to 13th



Consistory Meeting Rescheduled

The Consistory meeting will be September 14th due to Labor Day.

Tech Team Planning Meetings

Tech Team Meetings move to bi-weekly. Next meeting will be September 15th.

Improvement Projects Updates

The bell tower masonry repairs are rescheduled to begin this week instead due to the rain this past week.

UCC Peace Face Masks Available by Donation

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

Sunday Worship (Rally Day)

Rally Day is Sunday, September 13th at which time our service time changes back to 11am and modified Sunday School options become available.

HARC Hike

The Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC) holds its 8th annual hike fundraiser virtually this year between September 12th-19th. Barb Hendershot is walking on behalf of Zion. Some of the funds raised are used to support HARC's Micah's Backpack ministry of Washington County. For more info or to make a donation:

<https://harccoalition.org/hike> | <https://www.pledgereg.com/266081>

Don't Forget

Soup Kitchen, and Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.

**GET
INVOLVED!**

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Labor Day

September 7th: Have a safe and blessed holiday. Church office closed.

Sunday Worship

Rally Day, September 13th at 11am, in-person and online.
Adult Sunday School at 9:45am in Burhans Room.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION:

4H Club Meeting

September 10th, 4pm via Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

September 11th, 7pm in the chapel



Recital Planned

Trumpet and Organ Recital planned for November 15th in the sanctuary.
More info to come.

SERVICE CREDITS

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Credits Song: "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

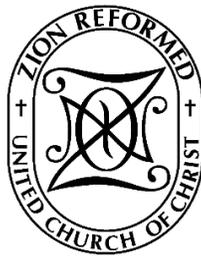
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