

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 11 A.M.



Prophets believe that what they proclaim on  
any day can be transformed into real action.

~William J. Barber II~

*Faith & Democracy Sunday*

**WELCOME** to *your* faith community! We are glad to worship 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.

Today is Faith & Democracy Sunday within the Central Atlantic Conference, a campaign to remind us to exercise our faith through caring for our neighbors in all that we do, even in voting. At the national UCC level, we celebrate Just Peace Sunday. Both are part of the Justice & Witness Action Network and partner with the Our Faith, Our Vote campaign. Learn more about these important calls to action by exploring these links: <https://letjustice.org>; [www.ucc.org/just\\_peace\\_sunday\\_resources](http://www.ucc.org/just_peace_sunday_resources); [www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote](http://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote).

Let us worship our God together in spirit, mind, and deed!

## *WE GATHER*

Gathering Music

Nocturne Medley

Words of Welcome

Faith & Democracy Sunday Intro Video

Prelude to Worship

“Rêverie”

## *WE PREPARE*

↑ Call to Worship

One: God is here:

**All: God who loves each of us without measure,  
and welcomes us from every race, color, creed,  
language, culture, and orientation.**

One: God who sees us and knows us all: is here!

**All: Halleluiah! Let all the people praise God!**

↑ Gathering Prayer

One: Gracious and compassionate Creator, we are gathered to  
worship you.

**All: You are great and worthy of all praise.**

One: We quiet our hearts and minds so we may hear and respond to your  
voice.

**All: You are great and worthy of all praise.**

One: Christ of our hearts, be enlivened in and among us.

**All: You are great and worthy of all praise.**

One: Live through us as doers of justice, lovers of mercy, and as those  
who walk humbly with you.

**All: You are great and worthy of all praise.**

One: This, so we may become the beloved community where all may live with dignity and in peace:

**All: Because you are great and worthy of all praise. Amen.**

↓ Gathering Hymn

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

Based on Jonah 3:1-4:11 & Matthew 20:1-16

**All: God, you are so generous, providing abundance, enough for all. Yet, it is so easy for us to decide that we do not have enough. Worse, we can be resentful of your generosity to others. Help us partner with you in the vineyards of our communities to ensure our elected officials are committed to the flourishing of all your people. And God, when our resentment deteriorates into vengeful anger at those whom we believe deserve your punishment — when we “other” those who disagree with us — help us do better than Jonah’s pouting. Transform that anger into the energy to share the stories of your love and justice throughout the generations. Help us carry that prophetic voice all the way to the voting booth. Thank you for calling us to share your generous love — may we meet your call, without fear. Amen.**

Words of Blessing

Based on Psalm 145

One: “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” When we act in ways that separate us from the love of God, God welcomes us back onto the path that follows Jesus’ way.

**All: Thanks Be to God.**

Worship Hymn

“I Must Tell Jesus” (NCH #486)

*WE MEDITATE*

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 16:2-15 (NRSV)  
Lector: Carol Mooers

<sup>2</sup> The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." <sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup> and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" <sup>8</sup> And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." <sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" <sup>10</sup> And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses and said, <sup>12</sup> "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" <sup>13</sup> In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Reflection Video

"Restoration"

↓ Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he

went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Message

"Is There No Justice?"

### *WE RESPOND*

Mission Moment

"Economic Justice"

Offertory Hymn

"Peace in the Valley"

Dedication of Gifts

**All: We give thanks to God that we have the opportunity to act on our faith by voting and by helping others to vote. Guide us to use our vote not just for furthering our own self-interests but to make sure that those who are most in need of a just government and care of the community are the ones our leaders will respond to. Take our hands and feet and use them to create your beloved community of love and compassion.**

Prayers of the People

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 and ever. Amen.**

*WE ARE SENT TO SERVE*

Prelude to Service

"Tuba Tune in D Major"

Sending Forth!

*GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!*



## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Week of September 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>



### **56<sup>th</sup> Annual CAC Meeting (Virtual)**

September 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, \$25/person

More info at [www.cacucc.org/annualmeeting](http://www.cacucc.org/annualmeeting)

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**



Submit your prayer requests to the church office by phone at 301.739.7244 or email at [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto: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:**



Lector This Week (9/20): Carol Mooers

Lector Next Week (9/27): Rae Smith

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.

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

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

### **Don't Forget**

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



## ***IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:***

### **Newsletter Deadline**

September 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for October newsletter submissions.

### **Tech Team Meeting**

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3:30pm in Burhans Room

### **Worship Team Meeting**

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 11am in Burhans Room

### **Sunday Worship**

September 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am, in-person and online.

Sunday School at 9:45am: Adult Sunday School in Burhans Room.

Youth Sunday School via Zoom at 9:45am. (Contact Kim Ridenour for more info)

## ***OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION:***

### **4H Club Meeting**

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 4pm via Zoom

### **Celebrate Recovery**

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the chapel  
(CR Men's Group at 9am on Sat, Sep 26<sup>th</sup>)



### **Recital Planned**

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

## Call to Action

FAITH & DEMOCRACY 2020

ELECTION CENTER

MARYLAND

**Go to [LetJustice.org](https://letjustice.org) to pledge to vote, check voter registration, make a plan, review voter guides and get helpful info!**



**JUSTICE  
+ WITNESS**  
ACTION NETWORK



CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*God is still speaking.*

Please make sure you are registered to vote and that you have a voter plan. If you have already done so, you might offer to help other members of your congregation do the same. Members of the Central Atlantic Conference may check their registration and register to vote at our Faith & Democracy 2020 Election Center (<https://letjustice.org>).

Participants outside the Central Atlantic Conference may use the Our Faith, Our Vote UCC Civic Action Center (<https://p2a.co/zv3KyIE>) to do the same.

Share your action and enthusiasm! The UCC created a social media kit to help you do this easily. [Coming soon.]

We are so grateful to those of you who are actively writing postcards and phonebanking through our partner the Center for Common Ground ([centerforcommonground.org](https://centerforcommonground.org)). It's not too late to join! Please do so at [bit.ly/CACPostcards](https://bit.ly/CACPostcards).

Finally, please take time to familiarize yourself with the issues.

## ISSUE ONE-PAGER: ECONOMIC JUSTICE

### The UCC on Economic Justice:

Since its inception in 1957, the United Church of Christ has been committed to economic justice. In 2009, the UCC committed to an Economic Justice covenant, stating: “Too often Christians and congregations engage only in works of charity (direct action) without moving into the works of justice that could reduce the need for charity... Justice and love cannot be divorced from one another.” As Christian witnesses, we fight locally and nationally to end economic evils like:

- The Racial Wealth Gap - The net worth of a typical Black family is nearly ten times less than that of a White family because of the effects of accumulated inequality and discrimination
- Worker Exploitation - Farm workers are overworked and abused, caretakers are forced to choose between their loved ones and a paycheck because they are not allowed paid leave, and low-wage workers are forced to survive on unlivable wages
- Predatory Lending - Payday loans, which target the poor and people of color, trapping them in 300% interest loans which snowball into impossible debt burdens
- Outrageous Medical Debt - Medical debt can strike anyone and wipe them out because the cost of healthcare in the U.S. is astronomical
- Unjust Tax Laws - When those who hold the nation’s wealth don’t pay their fair share, everyone suffers for it

### How the UCC has Taken Action:

- Sign on letter regarding predatory debt collection
- Advocate for Paid Leave for All to be included in the next COVID-19 relief bill
- UCC Medical Debt Buy wiped out \$12.9 million in debt in St. Louis



### Questions for your candidates

- Do you support paid family leave, INCLUDING elder and bereavement care? How are you advocating for paid leave for all?
- Will you work to create reparatory justice for the national sin of slavery? Do you support HR-40 and SB-1083, which call for reparation proposals?
- Payday loans trap people in an unending cycle of debt. Do you support a 36% rate cap for everyone so that no lender can charge extortionate rates?
- How are you advocating for a guaranteed livable wage for all workers?

## SERVICE CREDITS

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**Gathering Music:** Nocturne Medley: "Nocturne No. 2 for Piano in C-Minor" (H25) and "Nocturne No. 1 for Piano in E-flat Major" (H24). Composed by John Field (1812), ©Public Domain. Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved.

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**Prelude to Service:** "Tuba Tune in D-Major" (Op. 15) – Composed by Craig S. Lang (1891-1971), ©1929 by J.B. Cramer & Co. Ltd. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig\\_Sellar\\_Lang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craig_Sellar_Lang).

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

**Faith & Democracy Resources:** from Justice & Witness Action Network of the Central Atlantic Conference ([letjustice.org/Sunday](http://letjustice.org/Sunday)), and written by Authors: Rev. Andrea Vassell (NJ), Rev. Linda Higgins (VA) and Rev. Terry Yasuko Ogawa (NC)

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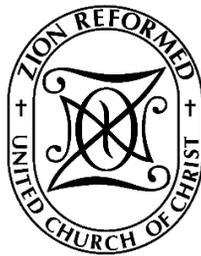
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