

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 27th, 2020 @ 11 A.M.



In the Name of Jesus...

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, continuing to tell the story of Jesus and His love.

Today we choose to love as Christ loved us, and we must always err on the side of love for our neighbors in order to be true witnesses of our faith. The UCC celebrates the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) today, a voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM. Let us pray for our American Indian siblings and strive to do our best to help their equality be realized.

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

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

"Piano Sonata No. 11" (Mozart)

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship

"Piano Sonata in A Major" (Schubert)

WE PREPARE

↑ Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 114

One: When Israel was delivered from Egypt unbelievable things happened—the sea fled, and the River Jordan turned back.

All: The mountains seem to skip like rams, and the hills to frolic like little lambs.

One: What awesome power caused river and sea to change their course—mountains and hills to jump and skip?

All: The whole earth was surely trembling in the presence of God.

One: Praise God who sets people free in unexpected ways and sustains them through unexpected acts of grace.

↑ Gathering Prayer

↓ Gathering Hymn

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

All: God of Power and Might, we confess that we put up walls and barriers. We refuse to forgive, though others have forgiven us. We refuse to help, though we have been helped. We see the speck in the eyes of others and fail to see the log in our own. We are stubborn. We want things our way and

cannot see outside of the box that there may be other ways. Forgive our shortcomings, our short-sightedness, and when we become stumbling blocks for others. Call us into Your way, to see ourselves in others, to put ourselves in their shoes, to love others as we love ourselves, as You have loved us. In the name of Christ, who calls us to repent, to turn back to God, and seek forgiveness, we pray. Amen.

~ Silence is Kept ~

Words of Blessing

One: Great is God's faithfulness.

All: God makes a path when none was there before. God leads us back when we are hopelessly lost. God makes room for us when we have walked away, time and again.

One: There is always room for us at the table of Christ, and Christ is calling your name. You are forgiven, you are loved, you are restored to Christ. Amen.

Worship Hymn

"Kol Nidrei"

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSV)
Lector: Rae Smith

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there

in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reflection Video

"Unstoppable"

↓ Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ 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?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ 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.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² 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.' ¹³ 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? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Message

"Watching the Evidence Change"

WE RESPOND

Special Music Video

"God of the Movements & Martyrs"

Mission Moment Video

"Climate Change & Creation Care"

Offertory Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

Dedication of Gifts

All: **These gifts represent the best of ourselves, O God – we proclaim, with joy, that we can do no better. Receive them with our prayers. Take and use them for your goodness. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

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

“Toccatà in D-Minor” (Bach)

Sending Forth!

One: The sweet Spirit of God has blessed us! Let us give thanks.

All: **Thank you!**

One: The great Spirit of God will guide us! Let us give thanks.

All: **Thank you!**

One: The humble Spirit of God is with us. Let us give thanks.

All: **Thank you!**

One: And may the blessed, eternal Trinity grant you the peace the world cannot give, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Week of September 28th to October 4th



Soup Kitchen Reopens

Zion's Soup Kitchen reopens October 6th serving dine-in meals to the community. Volunteers are welcome! In addition to serving meals, volunteers are needed to provide hospitality to our guests, and to help share this opportunity with the local community.

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.

Never miss a Sunday sermon! When you can't make it to church you can still watch the sermon. Go to our YouTube channel "Zion Reformed United Church of Christ." Streaming of the Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am but you can view the videos of past services anytime.

HELPING HANDS:



Lector This Week (9/27): Rae Smith

Lector Next Week (10/4): Carroll Sager

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.

Baby Announcements:

We are excited to share in the joy of welcoming these newest bundles of joy to the Zion family. Congratulations to both families!



(left) Amber Hendershot welcomes new baby, Brynn Elizabeth Nilson
(right) Sarah & Tyler welcome new baby, Kaden Finn Kalkbrenner

Records from Last Week:

Offering: \$4,733.50 (General Fund: \$3,246.00; Christian Ed: \$15.00; Rents: \$472.50; New Piano Fund: \$1000.00). THANK YOU to all who have remembered the church by giving, dropping off and/or mailing in their offerings even in this time of uncertainty and pandemic!

Attendance: Adult Sunday School: 8; Young Adult Sunday School: 3; Sunday Worship: 24 in-house + 6 Live Viewers, and 11 additional views throughout the week.

UCC Peace Face Masks Available by Donation

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

Postponed

Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.

**GET
INVOLVED!**

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

Christian Ed Ministry Team Meeting

September 28th, 7:30pm

Tech Team Meeting

September 29th, 3:30pm in Burhans Room

Properties Committee Meeting

October 1st, 4:30pm

Sunday Worship

World Communion Sunday, October 4th at 11am, in-person and online.
Sunday School at 9:45am (Adult classes in-person, Children's class via Zoom)

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION:

4H Club Meeting

October 1st, 4pm via Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

October 2nd, 7pm in the chapel



Trumpet & Organ Recital



November 15th, 3pm

More info to come.

Call to Action:

2020 Census

Respond by September 30th
<https://2020census.gov>

The 2020 Census takes just a few moments to complete. You can still complete the census today. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into our community (or not) for the next decade. That funding will help determine our local highway planning and construction, school funding affecting Head Start and Special Ed programs, wildlife preservation, rural funding, housing assistance for seniors, child abuse prevention, natural disaster preparedness, food supplement programs, section 8 housing, water and waste disposal programs and other infrastructure, hospitals, fire departments and other critical response programs, and much, much, more.



2020 General Election



CAC's Faith & Democracy 2020 Election Center:
<https://letjustice.org>

Our Faith, Our Vote UCC Civic Action Center:
www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote

Get Active - Center for Common Ground:
www.centerforcommonground.org

Maryland Board of Elections: (Register to Vote, Req Mail-In Ballots & More)
<https://elections.maryland.gov>

Mission Moment:



ISSUE ONE-PAGER: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/CLIMATE

The UCC Environmental Justice/Climate:

- General Synod 32 (2019) “Let Justice Roll Down — Declaring Support for the Green New Deal and Affirming the Intersectionality of Climate Justice with all Justice Issues.” With this resolution, the UCC became the first denomination to endorse the GND.
- General Synod 31 (2017) “The Earth is the Lord’s - Not Ours to Wreck: Imperatives for a New Moral Era.” A resolution on the moral imperatives for people of faith in response to a presidential administration that “ignores science, defunds the Environmental Protection Agency, and withdraws from the Paris Climate Accord.”
- General Synod 29 (2013) “Resolution Urging Divestment—Along with Other Strategies—from Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change,” the UCC became the first denomination to pass a resolution endorsing divestment from fossil fuel companies.
- The UCC has served as the leading organizational force in the birth of the environmental justice movement, by defining and highlighting environmental racism through research.
- The UCC published a recent report on toxic air pollution; highlighting the urgency of addressing the health impacts on communities living near toxic air pollution caused by chemical processing facilities.

How We Have Taken Action:

Support Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2020 by Taking Action
Protect Children and Vulnerable Communities from Toxic Pollution
Support Former Mining Communities
Stand with Youth and Take Action on Climate!



Questions for your candidates

- Do you support a Green New Deal?
- What are your priorities for addressing the climate crisis?
- Will you commit to divesting from fossil fuels in order to address climate change?
- How will you address environmental racism and toxic air pollution for vulnerable communities?

Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ | ourfaithourvote.org
Contact: Rev. Brooks Berndt, Environmental Justice Minister berndtb@ucc.org

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*Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piano_Sonata_No._11_\(Mozart\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piano_Sonata_No._11_(Mozart)).

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Offertory Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" – Lyrics by Edward Perronet (1780), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Diadem" by James Ellor (1838), ©Public Domain. Arrangement by Page, ©2014 by The Lorenz Corporation. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source: [Hymnary \(hymnary.org\)](http://hymnary.org).

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toccata_and_Fugue_in_D_minor,_BWV_538.

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Special Music: "God of the Movements & Martyrs," original version folk hymn composed and written by David LaMotte, licensed by Convergence Music Project. Used with permission, all rights reserved.

Mission Moment: "Climate Change & Creation Care" by Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, (Retired), NJ from Justice & Action Network of the Central Atlantic Conference (<https://letjustice.org/sunday>)

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: 8:30-12:30, Monday through Friday

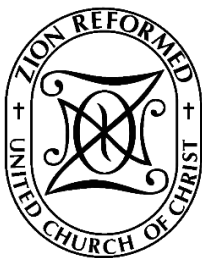
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