

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 18th, 2020 @ 11 A.M.



Reimagining Our Future: Justice and Joy for All Children

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.

Harvest Home Sunday has been rescheduled for Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22nd. We will be collecting non-perishable foods and/or monetary donations to supply the Zion Soup Kitchen and to bless local food banks with. Please give as you are able. This weekend is the national observance of Children's Sabbath Weekend, a multifaith observance uniting all faiths together as a voice for our children. Recognizing our responsibility as individuals and as faith communities to be guardians of children everywhere. We are the children's voice standing up for their protection, rights, education, and future. We are their voice even though they have no voice in the democracy. Our actions today affect their tomorrow. So today we join people of faith in renewing our commitment to the children of our nation regardless of their status, race, ethnicity, ability, or faith.

Let us worship our God, the Eternal Spirit, together in spirit, mind, and deed with wonderful day bestowed upon us!

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

"Prelude in E-Flat Major"

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Prelude to Worship

"Rise, O Children of Salvation"

WE PREPARE

↑ Call to Worship

One: Gather our hearts, O God, knitting us together across difference and division to live with your compassion.

All: Gather our minds, O God, from distractions and distance to focus on you and your children.

One: Gather our wills, O God, to be strong and courageous in pursuit of your justice.

All: By the power of your holy spirit, make us one in heart, mind, and spirit as we worship you on this Children's Sabbath day. Come, let us worship God.

Gathering Prayer

↓Gathering Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

All: God of infinite possibility, we confess that too often we are stuck in what is rather than working toward what could be. We doubt we can make a difference and so we just try to get through the day. We become overwhelmed by pain, problems, and the pandemic, and want to hide our hearts, sit on our hands, and wait for it to end. Forgive us, O God, for living too little in the largeness of your love. Fill us, we pray, with courage and compassion, vision and determination to embody your love, seek your will, and strive for your justice that will enable all children to thrive and live with joy in the fullness of life that you intend. These things we pray in the name of your child, Jesus. Amen.

~silence is kept~

Words of Blessing

Passing of the Peace

Special Music "Jesus Loves the Little Children/He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson ✧

Exodus 33:12-23 (NRSV)

Lector: Carol Mooers

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Gospel Lesson ✧

Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSV)

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

WE RESPOND

Time with Children Stewardship Moment ✦

Rae Smith

Worship Hymn

"Now In the Days of Youth"

Blessing Our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

All: O God, help us to recover our hope for our children's sake. Help us to recover our courage for our children's sake. Help us to recover our discipline for our children's sake. Help us to recover our ability to work together for our children's sake. Help us to recover our values for our children's sake. Help us to recover our faith in you for our children's sake. Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: O Source of Transformation, we turn our hearts to you on this Children's Sabbath. We pray for the Church, that we become an ever more true reflection of your welcome. Lead us in our witness to your justice. Teach us to be the embodiment of your love, especially for the youngest, impoverished, and most marginalized of your beloved children. Source of Transformation, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

One: Source of Compassion, we pray for the world, in which disease knows no boundary and suffering is a shared language. We ask that love will unite us in action that recognizes our common humanity. Give us your desire that all may live in the fullness of life. Source of Compassion, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

One: Source of Hope, we pray for our nation wounded by disease and death, division and distrust, pain and poverty, and so many uncertainties. Instill in us calm and trust in you that helps us reimagine our future with justice and joy for all children. Source of Hope, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

One: Source of Strength, on this Children's Sabbath weekend, we pray especially for the children and youth of our congregations and communities. We hold in our hearts those who struggle with disrupted learning, delayed plans,

disappointment and loneliness. We pray for those whose families struggle to make ends meet. We pray that this weekend will inspire new, lasting action to work with our children toward your vision of justice and joy. Source of Strength, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

One: Source of Comfort, we pray for those who have died, especially those who died too young, too soon, from causes we could have prevented. We pray for those whose lives were lost to disease and despair, to brutality and bullying, to shootings and to suicide. Help us to be your arms of care for those who grieve and your voice to prevent unnecessary losses. Source of Comfort, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

One: These things we ask in Jesus' name, who came among us as a living prayer of transformation, compassion, hope, strength, and comfort. Amen.

Our 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

Video Reflection

"The Blessing"

Sending Forth

Go Forth in Peace & Serve!

Prelude to Service

"Joyous Procession"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of October 19th to October 25th



All Saints Day Call to Action

Submit names, dates, and if possible, photos, of any one you'd like to remember during our special All Saint's Day service who has passed since 1 November 2019.

Submit info to the church office or Pastor Katie.

Young Adult's Sunday School

The Young Adults class began their *Books of the Bible* study exploring the entire Bible with journals, video, and readings. It's not too late to join them for this interesting and informative study. Any questions contact:
Richard Cantilena at 678.559.8927.

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



Lector This Week (10/18): Carol Mooers

Lector Next Week (10/25): Aaron Kelly

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.

Records from Last Week:

Sunday Worship Attendance: 22 participants + 4 *WorshipLive* participants, and 15 additional views throughout the week.

Soup Kitchen Attendance: The Soup Kitchen served 16 meals this past Tuesday. Please help spread the word that our Soup Kitchen has reopened to the public.

Please Remember

PEACE face masks available by donation, see Becky Owens or Pastor Katie.

Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.



IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK

November Newsletter Deadline

Submissions due by October 19th to church office or zionrucc@myactv.net

Soup Kitchen

October 20th, 5pm-6:15pm

Volunteers Welcome!

Worship Planning Meeting

October 22nd, 11am

Sunday Worship

Reformation Sunday, October 25th at 11am, in-person and online.

(Online at www.zionreformed.church/sermons)

Sunday School at 9:45am

(Adult classes in-person, Children's class via Zoom)

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

4H Club Meeting

October 22nd, 4:30pm via Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

October 23rd, 7pm in the chapel
(October 24th, CR Men's Group, 9am)



Halloween



October 31st, 6-8pm in the Parking Lot

Serving free hot dogs, candy, and water during Trick or Treat

Volunteers and donations of supplies or money are all welcome.



Trumpet & Organ Recital



November 15th, 3pm

More info to come!

JUSTICE & WITNESS: CHILDREN'S SABBATHS WEEKEND



Reimagining Our Future: Justice and Joy for All Children

By participating in the multifaith National Observance of Children's Sabbaths weekend organized by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), we are part of a powerful, diverse multifaith voice for children spanning our nation and crossing all lines of income, race, ethnicity, and political party. What unites us is the belief that God calls us to protect children, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and the conviction that our faith calls us to live out God's justice and compassion. This inspiring weekend focuses attention on the urgent plight of children in our nation and calls us to put our faith into action to meet children's needs through direct service and work for justice.

This weekend is about connecting the very real problems confronting children and families with a call for all religious traditions in unity to respond with justice and care, and translating that faithful concern into action. The Children's Sabbath is a weekend that unites places of worship and all faiths across the nation in shared concern for children and common commitment to improving children's lives and working for justice on their behalf. In that respect, it is bigger and more powerful and more inspiring than the efforts of any one congregation on its own.

Children's Sabbath Weekend is a:

- Celebration to strengthen existing efforts for children and to commit to new advocacy actions. We are guardians or protectors for our children!
- Time to pray, study, and reflect about our faith and our responsibility to nurture and protect children.
- Time to put prayer into action; to serve children directly; and to speak out demanding justice for children.
- Time to include children's justice in our voting decisions and to demand our legislators look out for our children too.

Learn more about the CDF at www.childrensdefense.org.

The State of America's Children® in **MARYLAND**

2020 Factsheet



Child Population

- **1,340,148** children lived in Maryland in 2018.
- **58 percent** were children of color: 31 percent were Black; 16 percent were Hispanic; 6 percent were Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; and <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native.

Child Poverty

- **12 percent** of Maryland's children were poor in 2018—a total of **152,237** children—and children of color were disproportionately poor.
- **19 percent** of Black, **14 percent** of Hispanic and **6 percent** of white children were poor.
- **6 percent** of children were extremely poor (their family had income below half the poverty level).
- **12 percent** of children under 6 were poor.

Income and Wealth Inequality

- **\$122,100** was the median income for white families with children compared with **\$68,500** for Black and **\$63,300** for Hispanic families in 2017.

Housing and Homelessness

- **17,122** homeless children were enrolled in public schools during 2016-2017.
- **2.7 full-time jobs** at minimum wage were needed for a family to afford a two-bedroom rental unit at fair market rent in FY2019.

Child Hunger and Nutrition

- **15 percent** of children lived in food-insecure households in 2017.
- **36 percent** of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2017.
- **19 percent** of children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in FY2018.
- **79 percent** of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch during the 2017-2018 school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2018.

Child Health

- **46,770** children ages 0-18 (**3 percent**) were uninsured in 2018.
- **618,583** children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Maryland Children's Health Program (combined Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program) in 2018.

Early Childhood

- **\$15,403** was the average annual cost for an infant in center-based child care in 2018.
- **38 percent** of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool during 2017-2018.

Education

- **78 percent** of Black, **78 percent** of Hispanic and **52 percent** of white 4th grade public school students were not proficient in reading in 2019.
- **80 percent** of Black, **79 percent** of Hispanic and **50 percent** of white 8th grade public school students were not proficient in reading in 2019.
- **85 percent** of Black, **74 percent** of Hispanic and **93 percent** of white students graduated high school on time during 2016-2017.
- **9 percent** of Black, **3 percent** of Hispanic and **3 percent** of white public school students had at least one out-of-school suspension in 2013-2014.

Child Welfare

- **7,743** children were abused or neglected in 2018.
- **3,973** children were in foster care on the last day of FY2018.

Youth Justice

- **549** children were in residential placement in 2017. **77 percent** were Black; **8 percent** were Hispanic; and **15 percent** were white.
- **13** children were in adult prisons in 2017.

Gun Violence

- **60** children and teens were killed with guns in 2017.

Note: All numbers in this factsheet are included in the Children's Defense Fund's *The State of America's Children® 2020* report, and most have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Facts for states and the District of Columbia were omitted when data were not available. Citations for all data may be found in *The State of America's Children® 2020*.

JUSTICE & WITNESS: VOTE FOR THE CHILDREN

Vote Because: Your Vote Matters at Every Level!

Vote Because: Children Are Counting on You!

Vote Because: You Can Use Your Power to Vote for Children!

Vote Because: Your vote will help shape our children's futures!



It's decisions in your community about health insurance, school funding and classroom curriculum, parks and roads, police reform, and affordable housing. Being informed about these decisions can help ensure your vote is protecting children in your community. Learn more at:

www.childrensdefense.org/2020-voting-resources

Democracy is not a spectator sport. Children can't vote but you can. By using our voices and voting, we can hold our federal, state, and local officials accountable for standing up for America's children and ensure our children have what they need to thrive. Learn more at www.childrensdefense.org/2020-voting-resources



In order to raise our voices on behalf of children this election, we must vote. Register to vote, vote early or on election day, in-person or by mail --just vote. Make a well-informed decision, do your research. Encourage others to vote. Vote with others in mind, especially those who don't have a voice like our children. Learn more at www.childrensdefense.org/2020-voting-resources



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Gathering Music: "Prelude in E-Flat Major" (BWV 998). Composed by John Sebastian Bach around 1735, ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prelude,_Fugue_and_Allegro_in_E-flat_major,_BWV_998#

Prelude to Worship: "Rise O' Children of Salvation" – Lyrics by Justus Falckner (1672-1723). Translated by Frances Bevan (1858), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Unser Herrscher" by Joachim Neander (1680), ©Public Domain. Arrangement by David Cherwien, ©1981 by A.M.S.I., reassigned in 2002 to The Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): https://hymnary.org/text/rise_ye_children_of_salvation and https://www.lorenz.com/Files/Files/Lorenz/Products/Sample_Pages/70_1485S.pdf

Gathering Hymn: "Jesus Loves Me" – Lyrics by Anna Bartlett Warner (1859), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" by William Bradbury (1862), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source: https://hymnary.org/text/jesus_loves_me_this_i_know_for_the_bible

Worship Hymn: "Now in the Days of Youth" – *The Hymnal* (1977), ©1941, renewed 1968 by Eden Publishing House, song #446. Lyrics by Walter Mathams (1913), © by Congregational Sunday-School and Publishing Society. Tune, "Diademata" by George Elvey (1868), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source: https://hymnary.org/text/now_in_the_days_of_youth.

Prelude to Service: "Procesión Alegre" translated as "Joyous Procession" – Composed by Gary Cornell, ©1990 by Celebration Unlimited. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source: <https://www.jwpepper.com/Procesion-Alegre/9502810.item#>

Video Reflection: "The Blessing" <https://youtu.be/uiWZXLsdE9w>.

Special Music: "Jesus Loves the Little Children/He's Got the Whole World In His Hands"
*Source: <https://youtu.be/IzGnEcX37u4>.

Liturgical Components: Adapted from *2020 Children's Sabbath Christian Resources for Worship Services*, a resource of the Children's Defense Fund, ©2020 by Children's Defense Fund. Used with permission, all rights reserved. *Source: https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Sabbath-2020_Christian-Worship-Resources.pdf.

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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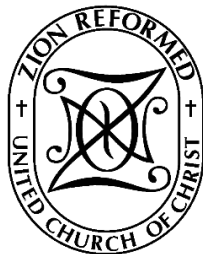
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