

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 8th, 2020 ☞ 11 A.M.
SUNDAY BULLETIN



Stewardship Sunday

WELCOME to *your* faith community! We are happy to worship with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in the presence of our Creator. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! Zion Reformed United Church of Christ has roots over 250 years in the making with visions of thriving long into the future. We invite you to consider making Zion Reformed UCC your church home if you haven't already and let us tell the story of Jesus and His love together!

Today is Stewardship Sunday, an exciting time of considering how our time, talents, and tithes can be used for the glory of God's kingdom, but it is so much more than just a call to do more or something that occurs only once a year. Stewardship is a way of life for disciples of Christ. We follow the example of sacrifice and giving of self for the love and benefit of our neighbors as taught by Christ's example. Let us consider what we can do, give, create, or inspire especially in these new and challenging times that require the church to reform once again.

Let us worship our God, the Great Steward, together in spirit, mind, and deed, and listen together for that still, small voice of the Almighty that is still speaking today!

WE GATHER

Gathering Music

"Prelude and Fugue in D-Minor, F-Major and G-Major"

Special Post Election Message from General Minister of the UCC✦

John Dorhauer

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Prelude to Worship

"Fanfare for the Common Man"

WE PREPARE

↑Call to Worship

One: God has gathered us to this place,

All: where we hear those stories, which show us what the kingdom of God is like.

One: God summons us to this place,

All: where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation.

One: God will send us from this place,

All: to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.

Opening Prayer

↓Contemplative Interlude

"Community of Christ"

Litany of Covenant Renewal

One: Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices: left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no? Some choices are simple, and some are very complex, but one choice informs all the others: Who will be our God? Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

All: Who has been with us from before the beginning, ringing us into existence? Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way? Who has pointed us toward the path and posted the signs we need to find our way? Who has been at our side when the road has been smooth and gently curving? Who has kept with us through hairpin turns and construction zones and potholes and detours?

Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course and seek the comfort of eternity?

One: Only One. The One and Only.

All: Holy One. The One and Holy.

One: Will you choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us?

All: Count us in.

One: Will you choose this day to place your whole trust in the One who is trustworthy?

All: Count us in.

One: Will you choose this day to commit your talents and your resources to the One who first endowed them?

All: Count us in.

One: Will you choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

All: Count us in.

One: Let us pray together:

All: We devote ourselves to you by renewing the covenant—the promise you made to humanity so long ago. because you are our God, we will be your people. Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment and our love so that we may graciously uphold our side of the deal. Help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings throughout our journey. Keep us in your care. Amen.

WE MEDITATE

Psalter Lesson

Psalms 78:1-7 (NRSV)

Lector: Barb Hendershot

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵ He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Message

"We Love to Tell the Story" by Pastor Katie and Rae Smith

Special Music

"I Love to Tell the Story"

WE RESPOND

Stewardship Moment

Kim Ridenour

Honoring All Veterans

"God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command"

Blessing Our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

All: God, we have come, and given generously of our gifts. Take, bless and multiply them so that they may be a blessing in your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

Meditative Interlude

"Take My Life, God, Let it Be"

Sending Forth (benediction)

Prelude to Service

"Fanfare on America the Beautiful"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



**Growing in Faith, Prayer & Service,
Giving Our Time, Talent, and Treasure**

As each has received a gift use it to
serve one another as good *stewards*
of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:10)

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of November 9th to November 15th



Search & Call Committee

We desire to form a Pastoral Search Committee for a settled minister. If you are willing to serve on the committee, please notify Darlene in the front office.

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 (11/8): Barb Hendershot

Lector Next Week (11/15): Carol Mooers

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: 25 participants in-house, and 19 online views with a combined total of 12 in Sunday School classes.

Soup Kitchen Attendance: The Soup Kitchen served 19 meals this past Tuesday. Please help spread the word that our Soup Kitchen is open and serving 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

Soup Kitchen

November 10th, 5pm-6:15pm
Volunteers Welcome!

Veterans Day

November 11th
Thank you to all service members past and present!

Sunday Worship

November 15th 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)

Worship Planning Meeting

November 13th, 11am

Trumpet & Organ Recital

November 15th, 3pm in the sanctuary.
Free and open to the public, all are welcome!

Featuring two iconic works of J.S. Bach; "Gabriel's Oboe" by Morricone; and the beloved hymn, "How Great Thou Art" as the grand finale. Please plan to attend following all CDC guidelines including face masks and social distancing.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

4H Club Meeting

November 12th, 4:30pm via Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

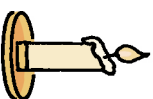
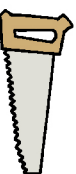
November 13th, 7pm in the chapel



Jesus told His followers
what this parable meant.

Write the name of each picture.

Transfer the letters in boxes to the lines below.



"Therefore _____,

because you do not know the day or the hour."

Ages 7+

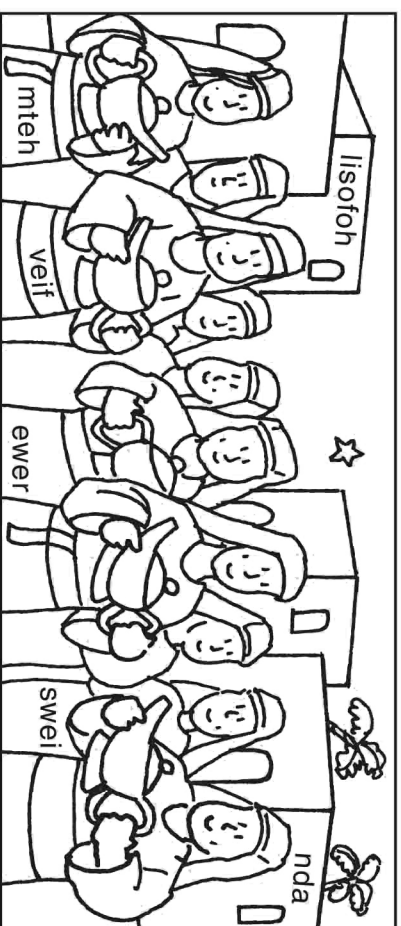
November 8, 2020 • Matthew 25:1-13

The 10 Bridesmaids

Jesus told a parable.

He said, "The kingdom of heaven will be like 10 bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom." Read more about the bridesmaids.

Unscramble the letters inside the shapes to fill in the blanks.



"_____ of _____

_____"



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Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @
games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE
GAPASS5

Stewardship



Activity Page Answer Key:

Transfer the letters:

Kite, **A**pple, **B**ottle, **P**encil; **S**aw, **C**andle, **T**ooth, **C**at, **H**ouse

Therefore keep watch because you do not know the day or the hour.

Unscramble the letters:

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

Stewardship



Beloved, Love in Action

“Do your little bit of good where you are. It’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God's love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, “Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” We take seemingly small actions to live out God's love. Here's the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

In 2019, Magnolia United Church of Christ in Seattle, WA, held its inaugural Community in Action Sunday. Determining that ‘church in action’ was a key to their vitality, instead of holding church worship as on a typical Sunday, they were love in action. Participating in five diverse service projects, the congregants restored habitat at a local park, made blankets for children, helped at their local animal shelter, tended an elder garden at the Native American cultural center, and cleaned up and cleared brush at a homeless encampment.

While average worship attendance runs about 50, that Sunday, over 150 people took part.



SERVICE CREDITS

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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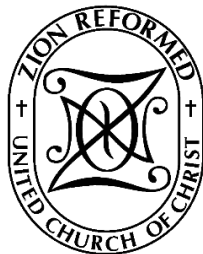
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