

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 11 A.M.  
SUNDAY BULLETIN



*Worship with the Council of Conference Ministers*

**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!

Please be aware that we have temporarily suspended in-person worship due to the current spiking trend of new coronavirus cases in our region but know that we are here to support you in anyway possible. We encourage you to also support one another via phone calls, emails and such during this time, and to pray for one another. Most importantly, please remember that this pandemic will be over one day, that we in our long history have survived other pandemics, and we will again! Right now we want to navigate as best we can keeping each and every one of you safe so that we can continue to enjoy one another's company for years to come.

Today we worship with the Council of Conference Ministers virtually for their second virtual worship service as we explore the Parable of the Talents. Let us worship our God, and see how God will speak to us today as we listen together for that still, small voice of God.



## *WE GATHER*

Service Intro

"Shall We Gather at the River"

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Rev Katie Penick

Opening Prayer

Rev Brigit Stevens (Iowa, Nebraska & South Dakota Conference)  
Rev Shana Johnson (Illinois South Conference)

God of Life prepare our hands for a new and different touch; A touch of meeting, of awakening, of hope, of feeling. God of Life prepare our feet for a new and different path; A path of happenstance, of awareness, of courage, of mood. God of Life prepare our speaking for a new and different voice; A voice of engagement, of recognition, of potential, of regard. God of Life prepare our living for a new and different life; A live of gathering, of beginnings, of expectations, of import. Give us daring as you create within us and among us the community that explores meaningful ways to move into your realm of kin-dom closeness. Amen.

## *WE PREPARE*

↑Call to Worship

Rev Mike Denton (Pacific Northwest Conference)  
Rev Gordon Rankin (New Hampshire Conference)

One: Gather near you gifted people; you beautiful people; you wonderful people. Gather near for you are Beloved. (Gather even closer if you feel you are not.) Come gather in this place / no place sanctuary so that we can celebrate and honor the God of every place. We are both near and far; close and distant; together and apart yet known and loved and treasured and held and blessed by a God who created us as a gift to the world. Gathered in this time of sanctuary, may we recognize and celebrate the gifts that are present here and ask for God's guidance as we discern how to share them. Gather near you gifted people; you beautiful people; you wonderful people. Gather near for you are Beloved. (Gather even closer if you feel you are not because the good news for today is that you are).

Musical Offering

"We Are Not Alone" (Southwestern Conference Virtual Choir)

Time Especially for Children

Rev John Dorhauer (UCC General Minister/President)  
Rev Jonna Jensen (Maine Conference)  
Rev Chad Abbott (Indiana-Kentucky Conference)

## UCC Statement of Faith (Doxology)

Rev Justo Gonzalez (Illinois Conference); Rev Sue Arts (Rocky Mountain Conference);  
Rev Tyler Connoley (Central Pacific Conference); Rev Shari Prestemon (Minnesota  
Conference); Rev Felix Villanueva (Southern California Nevada Conference); Rev Marc  
Stewart (Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference); Rev Lynn Bujnak (Vermont Conference)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Prayer of Daily Thanksgiving

Rev David Long-Higgins (Heartland Conference)

Musical Offering

"Dream God's Dream"

(Rev Christy Eckert, Tarrah Vaupel, and Dr. Phil Wilhelm)

### *WE MEDITATE*

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSV)

Rev Diane Weible (Northern California Nevada Conference)

Rev Franz Rigert (Wisconsin Conference)

<sup>14</sup> "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents;

see, I have made five more talents.’<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’<sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’<sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’<sup>26</sup> But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Message

“Thank God for Our Talents”

Rev Marilyn B. Kendrix (Southern New England Conference)

### *WE RESPOND*

Invitation to Generosity

Rev David Ackerman (Penn West Conference)

Rev Ginny Brown Daniel (Missouri Mid-South Conference)

Musical Offering

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (Rev Dr. Anthony Scott)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev Marc Stewart (Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference); Rev Freeman Palmer (Central Atlantic Conference; and Rev Bill Worley (Southwestern Conference)

### *Invitation*

It is so blessed to be together however we can. Even the limitations of this virtual form of communion are no impediment to knowing the spirit among us. God will be where God needs to be, and you are among those whom God has placed exactly where needed. May the beloved community you are in know all the more how it is called to serve. May your beloved community find that it feeds so many more than it can see among its own circles. May beloved community everywhere share the blessings of the cup Jesus fills with life. For there is no height nor depth that is beyond the reach of those called to be

God's love to and with the world. How so beautiful and so glorious is this place, known here in this life, and imagined into eternal perfection in the love of God, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

### *Institution*

Jesus calls us into community. As he gathered a community of believers and followers around him, he encouraged them to share in the simplicity of love and hope expressed through the gift of his life and spirit. Jesus sat a table with many people, those marginalized and disregarded, those lost and those of power and prestige. He called them all into this simple meal. On the night he was to be betrayed and arrested, on the road to Emmaus, and again on the shores of the seas of Galilee, Jesus took bread, the simple everyday bread of the people. He asked that it be blessed. He broke it and he shared it with the beloved community he had gathered with his friends, and Jesus said, "Take this my friends and eat it. This is my body which is broken for you. Remember me when you eat it." Jesus took the cup, filled with the fruit of the vine, the common drink of the people. He lifted the cup and asked that it be blessed. Jesus showed the cup to his beloved community, to his friends, and Jesus said, "Take this my friends, and drink it. This is a cup of promise, a cup of my life poured out for you so you will know forgiveness. Remember me when you drink it"

### *Consecration*

Come Holy Spirit and be in our midst. Bless these the gifts of Christ's table offered to us for strength, offered to us in hope, offered to us in love that we may know the everlasting presence of Christ today and in all days. This is the bread of life. Take and eat. This is the cup of life. Take and drink.

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

We have gathered as people of faith to celebrate our beloved community, to gather as people of faith following in the footsteps of Jesus. May we be thankful for the opportunities to share together. May we be thankful for the gifts or grace and peace poured over and into us. May we be thankful for the faith we have been given that lights the path before us. May we be grateful for this table, for this celebration, for this community, and for this time to share our lives, one with another. Amen!

Musical Offering

"Take, This Is My Body" (William Demanilow)

## *WE ARE SENT TO SERVE*

Sending Forth (benediction)

Rev Shari Prestemon (Minnesota Conference)

May we have grace to perceive the bounty of a generous God. May we have open hands and open hearts to share this abundance with abandon. May we have courage to see and not look away from the injustices that rob our siblings of their birthright as children of God. May we have the will to make the changes you desire for all your people and for the healing of the earth. Let us not grow weary and when we do, give us to one another so many hands make light work. May the blessings of God, our creator redeemer and sustainer go with us always. Amen.

*GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!*

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**We are responsible for the talents entrusted to us,  
how are you using yours?**

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of November 16<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>



### 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](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 (11/15): Council of Conference Ministers

Lector Next Week (11/22): 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.

### Records from Last Week

*Sunday Worship Attendance:* 30 participants in-house, and 11 online views with a combined total of 15 in Sunday School classes.

*Soup Kitchen Attendance:* The Soup Kitchen served 27 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

### Trumpet & Organ Recital

Today's recital is postponed until a later date to be announced.

### December Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the December Newsletter are due by November 16<sup>th</sup> to [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net)

### Soup Kitchen

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-6:15pm  
Volunteers Welcome!

### Worship Planning Meeting

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 11am, TBD

### Zion Book Club

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Sue Graff's House

### Sunday Worship

Harvest Home Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am, virtual service only.  
(Online at [www.zionreformed.church/sermons](http://www.zionreformed.church/sermons))

## OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

### 4H Club Meeting

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm via Zoom

### Celebrate Recovery

Not meeting temporarily

### Activity Page Answer Key:

*Fill in the Missing Letter:* Everyone; More; Abundance

*Add and Subtract:* 1) Going 2) Journey 3) Servants 4) Entrusted 5) Property

*Unscramble the letters:* To one the man gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

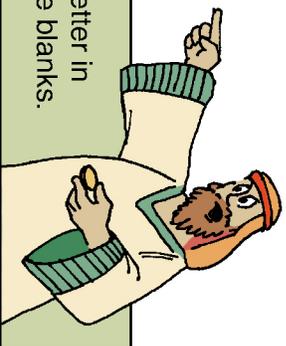
*Replace the Words:* The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.



When the man returned, he was very happy with the first 2 men, but disappointed in the third. What did he say?



Fill in the missing letter in each word to fill in the blanks.



“ P E A Y K P who has R M  
 E E V O L O A will be given A W A A  
 P N E U R K W A R N A N A  
 L E R N N U T B E D I  
 E L Y D U T E L R N G

and they M P K M S  
 will have an K O R E A R O A A  
 E T P E N C T T  
 U T L C H I T  
 P L E E C L E

Ages 7+

November 15, 2020 • Matthew 25:14-30

# The Parable of the Talents

Jesus told His followers a parable.

Add and subtract letters to fill in the blanks.

- at + - te + - kot + - iraffe = \_\_\_\_\_
- acket + - hse + - acket + - ke + - arn = \_\_\_\_\_
- hep + - wist + - se + - te + - ail = \_\_\_\_\_
- p + - nk + - on + - og = \_\_\_\_\_
- ot + - e + - a + - urke = \_\_\_\_\_

“The kingdom of heaven will be like a man 1) \_\_\_\_\_ on a  
 2) \_\_\_\_\_, who called his 3) \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 4) \_\_\_\_\_ his 5) \_\_\_\_\_ to them.”



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Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ [games.childrensbulletins.com](http://games.childrensbulletins.com)

**SECRET CODE**  
**SJXBM3**

What happened next?

Use this code to fill in the blanks.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

G \_ \_ L \_ \_ L \_ \_ M \_ \_ V \_ \_

G \_ \_ S \_ \_ V \_ \_ N \_ \_ Z \_ \_ M \_ \_ T \_ \_ Z \_ \_ E \_ \_ V \_ \_

U \_ \_ R \_ \_ E \_ \_ V \_ \_ G \_ \_ Z \_ \_ O \_ \_ V \_ \_ M \_ \_ G \_ \_ H \_ \_

L \_ \_ U \_ \_ N \_ \_ L \_ \_ M \_ \_ V \_ \_ B \_ \_ ' \_ \_ G \_ \_ L \_ \_

Z \_ \_ M \_ \_ L \_ \_ G \_ \_ S \_ \_ V \_ \_ I \_ \_ G \_ \_ D \_ \_ L \_ \_

G \_ \_ Z \_ \_ O \_ \_ V \_ \_ M \_ \_ G \_ \_ H \_ \_ ' \_ \_ Z \_ \_ M \_ \_ W \_ \_

G \_ \_ L \_ \_ Z \_ \_ M \_ \_ L \_ \_ G \_ \_ S \_ \_ V \_ \_ I \_ \_

L \_ \_ M \_ \_ V \_ \_ G \_ \_ Z \_ \_ O \_ \_ V \_ \_ M \_ \_ G \_ \_ ' \_ \_

V \_ \_ Z \_ \_ X \_ \_ S \_ \_

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G \_ \_ S \_ \_ V \_ \_ M \_ \_ S \_ \_ V \_ \_

D \_ \_ V \_ \_ M \_ \_ G \_ \_ L \_ \_ M \_ \_ S \_ \_ R \_ \_ H \_ \_

Q \_ \_ L \_ \_ F \_ \_ I \_ \_ M \_ \_ V \_ \_ B \_ \_ ' \_ \_

\* A talent was worth more than a thousand dollars.

What did each man do with his money?

Find 18 words that don't make sense or seem out of place. Replace them with words from the list that have only 1 letter different.

had	work	two	five	man	hid
put	hole	more	dug	went	more
had	went	<del>man</del>	five	money	ground

The ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> who ~~sad~~ received the fine talents bent at once and but his money to word and gained live core. So also, the one with the too talents gained two sore. But the pan who hat received the one talent lent off, rug a mole in the around and hit his master's honey.



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

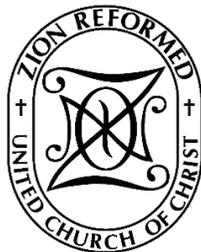
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