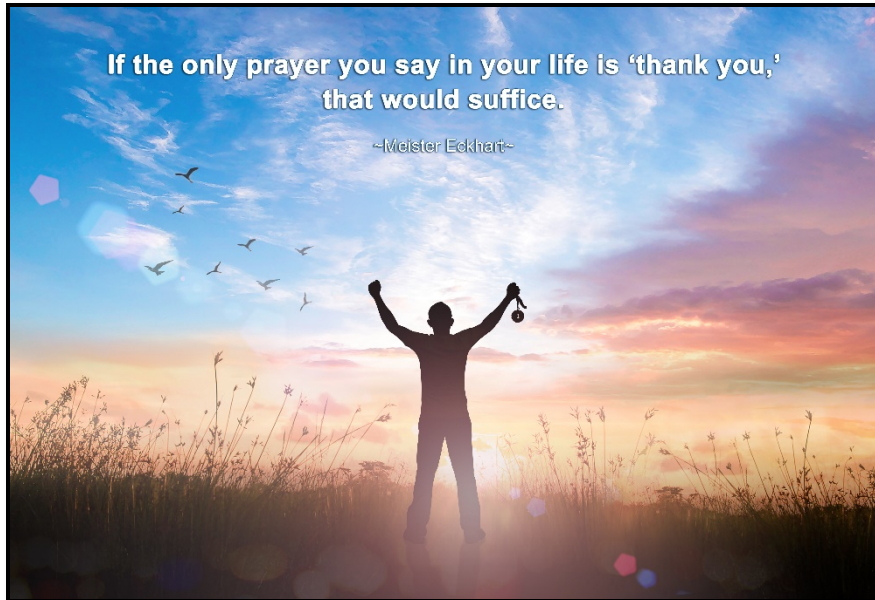


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2021 @ 11 A.M.  
SUNDAY BULLETIN



*Follow Me*

**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 God. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! Zion Reformed United Church of Christ has roots over 250 years in the making. We invite you to consider making Zion Reformed UCC your church home if you haven't already and join us on the journey as we listen for the still-speaking voice of God together.

Today we worship a power and a presence greater than all that is broken around us and within us. Worship is an opportunity to celebrate all that is possible in Christ. Two weeks ago, we explored the question, "can anything good" be asked about us as it were about Jesus. In today's text, the question asked could also be our question: "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" It was a question afraid of change, a question to a greater power than self. Ultimately, it is a question of surrender and then of transformation. We ask if Jesus has come to destroy us, our lifestyle, our image of ourselves, our self-confidence, and our self-dependence. We are people on a journey of transformation, and it isn't always easy. Today, we acknowledge the hard work of becoming disciples and of setting aside the weight that clings so closely, of handing over the reins of our lives so that we can be led into wholeness. And so, we can proclaim wholeness to the broken world around us. We worship the One who breaks the chain of oppression in whatever forms it presents itself. And let us join in the proclaiming of this setting free, not fearing any power, not shrinking from any evil but offering grace and a way to wholeness. What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? What changes are you making in us and among us? How are you recruiting us for the task of overcoming evil, ending oppression, bringing justice to an unjust world? We are yours, O God; we commit ourselves to you again, right here, right now. Let us worship!

## *WE GATHER*

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✧

"Paeon - Hymn of Praise"

Call to Worship

One: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

**All: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.**

One: God embraces the wounded and broken.

**All: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.**

One: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

**All: God is the light of our lives.**

One: God is the one who makes all things new.

**All: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!**

Prayer of Brokenness

Based on 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

For the ways in which we bury your light underneath layers of busyness and denial.

**God have mercy. Christ have mercy. Have mercy upon us.**

For the times we fail to recognize your light in the eyes of the hungry, the outcast, the stranger.

**God have mercy. Christ have mercy. Have mercy upon us.**

For the opportunities not taken to share your light with our children and parents and neighbors and friends.

**God have mercy. Christ have mercy. Have mercy upon us.**

~Silence is Kept~

Words of Blessing

In the midst of struggle, disease and affliction, know that you are made in God's image and God sees you as whole and good. So, may you celebrate God in your midst through opportunities of wholeness and justice.

Meditative Interlude ✧

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

## *WE MEDITATE*

Hebrew Lesson

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (NRSV)

Lector: Michael Jones

<sup>15</sup> The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup> This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup> Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup> Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup> But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Gospel Lesson✦

Mark 1:21-28 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Message

"Who Will Speak for Us?"

Contemplative Interlude✦

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

## *WE RESPOND*

Blessing Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

**Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love.**

## *WE ARE SENT TO SERVE*

Prayers of the People

Creating God, we are formed in your image, as individuals, as community; nourished and provided for and given a special understanding of who you are and of who and whose we are. We gather today in recognition of your calling, of your communicating, of your caring to invite us to share in your creative and healing work. We are here because we have heard you speak in us and through others. Help us, Holy One, to respond to your invitation to your grace...

**Lord hear our prayer...**

God of all our moments, of our days and our nights, you speak and you act in the world around us, not only to call all people to you, but also to direct and guide us in the way of healing and wholeness. Awaken us to hear what you would say to us. Help us to open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to your presence. Help us to know when it is your voice we are hearing and it when it is our prejudices and desires to which we are paying heed...

**Lord hear our prayer...**

O Source of All Blessings, we pray that your church may rise up with renewed commitment in answer to your call, that your people may be instruments of your grace and love...

**Lord hear our prayer...**

We pray for those who consider themselves inadequate and dismiss or avoid your calling in their lives. Give them a new vision, a vision in which you are their strength and their hope...

**Lord hear our prayer...**

We pray for those who, in answering your call, must leave the known for the unknown, the refuge for the wilderness, the comfortable for the uncertain places. Grant them courage and steadfast faith...

**Lord hear our prayer...**

We pray too, today, O Lord, for those in want and need – for those of us and of the larger community who suffer in body or in soul. We remember before you as we lift up their names...

[silence for prayer]

**Lord hear our prayer...**

Loving God, Father and Mother to us all, bless us all with an abundant faith, a hopeful ministry, and a joyful life. Bless us and all those who gather together to continue the work of Jesus, who came to heal, save, and deliver us all, and who taught us to pray as one family, saying...

**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.

## Sending Forth

And now in the wholeness and the goodness of God, go forth. Go and laugh with your friends, reconcile with those who have hurt you, be kind to strangers, and feel the Divine smile upon us. Now and forevermore. Amen.

Prelude to Service ✨

"Pilgrims' Chorus"

*GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!*



*God of Love, Light, & Transformation!*

An Adobe Stock Image

## Activity Page Answer Key:

Match the numbers with the words to fill in the blanks.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "1) What 2) is 3) this ? 4) A 5) new 6) teaching - 7) and 8) with 9) authority 10) He 11) even 12) gives 13) orders 14) to 15) evil 16) spirits 17) and they 18) obey 19) Him." News about Jesus spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

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Use this Morse 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

" W H A T D O Y O U W A N T W I T H U S J E S U S O F N A Z A R E T H H A V E Y O U C O M E T O D E S T R O Y U S I K N O W W H O Y O U A R E - T H E H O L Y O N E O F G O D I "

Add and subtract letters to fill in the blanks.

authority

The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them as one who had authority not as the teachers of the law.



Do the math to find the words that fit in the blanks.

2 + 3 = 5 = violently

1 + 1 = 2 = out

4 - 1 = 3 = him

3 + 3 = 6 = came

2 - 1 = 1 = quiet

2 + 2 = 4 = shook

"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly.

"Come out of him!"

The evil spirit shook the man

violently

and came out of him with a shriek.





## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of January 31<sup>st</sup>



### Adult Sunday School Class Coming Soon

A new Adult Sunday School class led by Sue Graff will begin Feb 21st at 9:45am. Attend via Zoom or call-in from any phone simply dialing a phone number. Each session will last only 40-45 minutes, so we are done in plenty of time for worship at 11am. Our inaugural series will be "It's Not Supposed To Be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst where we will examine how we react when our lives undergo change, and look at the Biblical perspective of how to handle change, fear, and anxiety. Connection information will be shared via Facebook, website, and by email each week.

We look forward to "seeing" you there!

### Prayer Requests



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Join us in praying one for another!

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 with you and your loved ones.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Let us serve together! Volunteers are needed to serve in the following areas: Search & Call Committee (Pastoral Search); Constitution & Bylaws Revision Taskforce; and Soup Kitchen (cook, server, or preparation). If you are willing to serve in one of these positions or have a talent to volunteer in a new and creative outreach ministry, please contact the church office.

### Other Announcements & Reminders

- ❖ Children's Sunday School meets by Zoom each Sunday at 9:45am. Contact Kim Ridenour or the church office for more information.
- ❖ Please continue to schedule any in-person business with the church office prior to stopping in so we can ensure safety protocols are adhered to while navigating the pandemic.
- ❖ To make a special donation towards the new fridge or new piano fundraisers, please send donations marked "Fridge Fund" or "Piano Fund" respectively to the church or donate online at [www.zionreformed.church/give](http://www.zionreformed.church/give).
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.

### Records from Last Week

**Sunday Worship:** 136 online views and 11 shares. | **Soup Kitchen:** 23 meals served.



## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Week of January 31<sup>st</sup>



### **Consistory Meeting**

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm via Zoom

### **Staff Meeting**

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am via Zoom

### **Soup Kitchen**

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome, carryout only.  
Social distancing and masks enforced. Volunteers welcome.

### **Virtual Sunday Worship**

Communion Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am (Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany)

Virtual service at [www.zionreformed.church/sermons](http://www.zionreformed.church/sermons).

(Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am)

## **OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION**

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

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



### **Online Giving**

Online giving is an alternative to mailing-in donations that you may want to consider that provides a secure, convenient alternative with 24/7 access allowing you to update your giving information verify scheduled donations, and retrieve giving reports at any time. [www.zionreformed.church/give](http://www.zionreformed.church/give)

### **Bulletin and Newsletters**

Submit weekly bulletin news and announcements to Michael at [connectionssixeight@gmail.com](mailto:connectionssixeight@gmail.com) or call 240.203.0854. Submit your newsletter news and announcements to Darlene at [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net) or 301.739.7244.



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are a community of believers who support one another in love, prayer, and faith!



*One Community, Many Voices*

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week**



Happy Birthday to Jessica Green (Jan 31<sup>st</sup>); Ivan Dwyer (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>); Mike Schultz (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>); and Lenzie Weicht (Feb 5<sup>th</sup>)!

May this year of your life be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your life be filled with an abundance of blessings, and for those times of trial should any arise, that you find the perseverance in Christ to endure.

If your special day does not appear the week of your special event, contact the church office to make sure your special day is in the records.

### **Richard Coleman Homecoming**

It is with a sad heart that we share another homecoming within our flock: Richard Coleman went to be with our Lord on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. A funeral service will be held at Minnich Funeral Home (Wilson Blvd), officiated by Pastor Katie on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. Friends will be received 1-hour prior to service on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Halfway Vol. Fire Company (Hag, MD).

Online condolences may be expressed in the online family guestbook at [Minnich Funeral Home](http://www.minnichfh.com) ([www.minnichfh.com](http://www.minnichfh.com)). His obituary can be found at [Herald Mail Media](http://heraldmailmedia.com) ([heraldmailmedia.com](http://heraldmailmedia.com))

### **REACH Cold Weather Shelter**

REACH Cold Weather Shelter is in need of help with meal preparation, meal serving, laundry room support, security & search, and hospitality. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Carroll Sager at [carroll.sager@gmail.com](mailto:carroll.sager@gmail.com) or the REACH office at 301-733-2371.

### **Submit Your Joys, Concerns, & Announcements**

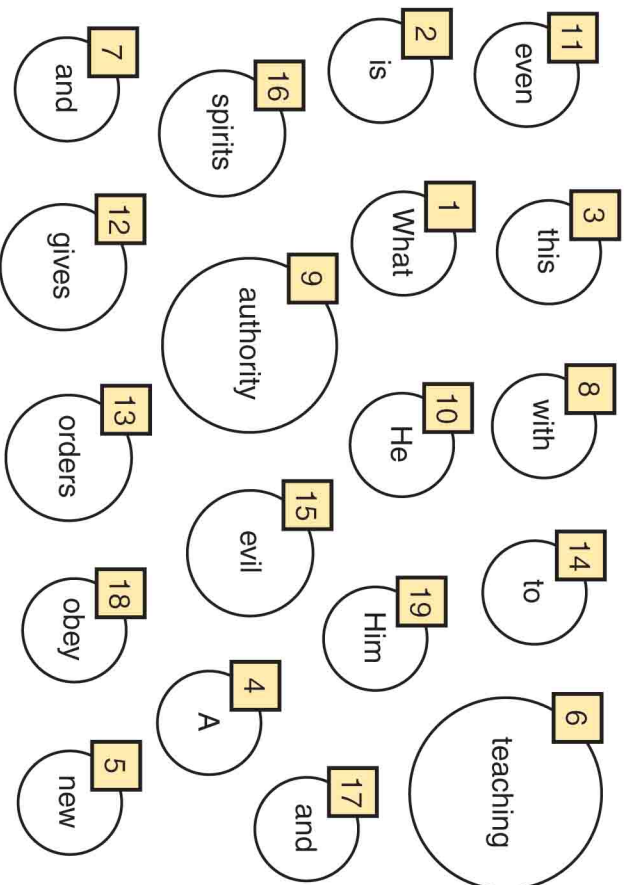
Submit your joys, concerns, and announcements for inclusion in the weekly bulletin to Michael at [connectionssixeight@gmail.com](mailto:connectionssixeight@gmail.com) or call 240.203.0854 by Thursday to be included in Sunday's bulletin.





What did the people say  
after hearing and seeing Jesus?

Match the numbers with the words to fill in the blanks.



The people were all so amazed that they asked  
each other, "1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_ ? 4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) \_\_\_\_\_ - 7) \_\_\_\_\_ 8) \_\_\_\_\_

9) \_\_\_\_\_ ! 10) \_\_\_\_\_ 11) \_\_\_\_\_ 12) \_\_\_\_\_

13) \_\_\_\_\_ 14) \_\_\_\_\_ 15) \_\_\_\_\_ 16) \_\_\_\_\_

17) \_\_\_\_\_ they 18) \_\_\_\_\_ 19) \_\_\_\_\_." News about

Jesus spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Ages 7+

January 31, 2021 • Mark 1:21-28

## Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

In Capernaum, Jesus taught at  
the synagogue on the Sabbath. Why were  
the people amazed at His teaching?

Add and subtract letters to fill in the blanks.



- pple +



- mg +



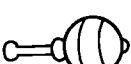
- urtle +



- at +



- rse +



- attle +



- fsh +

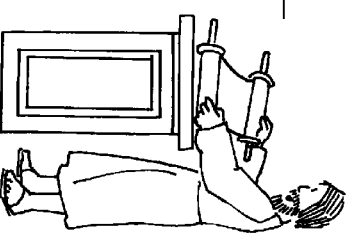


- ooth +



- arn =

The people were amazed at His  
teaching, because He taught them as  
one who had \_\_\_\_\_,  
not as the teachers of the law.



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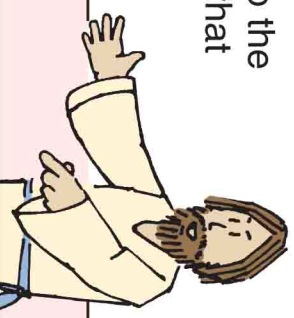
**SECRET CODE!**  
**ZGXGV8**

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

35

The figure consists of ten vertically stacked diagrams, each showing a set of horizontal lines with black dots placed at specific intervals. The diagrams illustrate the step-by-step construction of a new tiling by adding or removing segments from an existing one.

Do the math to find the words that fit in the blanks.



$1 + 1 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \text{out}$

3 + 3 =          = came

2 + 2 = \_\_\_\_ = shook

“Come \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_!”  
2 3  
The evil spirit \_\_\_\_\_

The evil spirit \_\_\_\_\_

---

5

of him with a shriek.



## SERVICE CREDITS

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

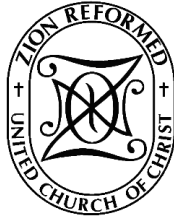
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**Rev Katie Penick, Interim Minister**

Phone: 240.418.8028    Email: [zionruccpastor@myactv.net](mailto:zionruccpastor@myactv.net)