

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 7TH, 2021 @ 11 A.M.
SUNDAY BULLETIN



Source of Strength

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.

This week, once again, we make a commitment to serve. Because we have been healed in so many ways, because we have been claimed and loved and accepted in ways that surprise us even still, we commit to serve in the name of the One who loves like that. Let us celebrate service today, but not as another call to do more, to give more, to work harder or to fill our overburdened schedules with work. Yes, there is always a call to more service. But instead, let's celebrate service by saying "thank you" because of the One who gives us strength. How can we cultivate a spirit of gratitude for the ones we have gotten used to ignoring, those who have become a part of the background noise of living in the world as it is? A few months ago, we called them "essential workers." Do we remember that? They were essential, but as a society, we don't pay them enough, or give them time off, or provide adequate healthcare, or thank them enough. May our gratitude to the Source of Strength be as in today's Gospel lesson, not in words, but in action. When we begin to celebrate the small and large acts of service of others, we find encouragement and an atmosphere for service for all of us. Let our prayers include reference to the humble servants around us. Let our confession be of how we have overlooked the presence of Christ in a simple act of giving and service in front of us. Let us worship the Source of Strength today!

WE GATHER

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✧

"Allegro Moderato in C-Major"

Call to Worship

One: Do you know? Do you hear?

All: Our God is from everlasting to everlasting.

One: Come to know. Come to hear.

All: Our God gives powers to the weak.

One: Are you tired? Are you faint?

All: Our God will renew your strength.

One: Come, lift up your weary arms.

All: Rise up like eagles on the wings of God!

Prayer of Brokenness

What do we hold and treasure most?

Is it the promises of God?

What captivates our attention?

Is it the grace of God?

God of mercy and grace: We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable. We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness. Heal us, O God, to make us better healers. Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders. Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression. We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better.

~Silence is Kept~

Words of Blessing

Have you known? Have you heard? Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings, strengthening us so that we won't be weary. The burden of sin is but a far and distant memory for, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven.

God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all.

Meditative Interlude ✧

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

WE MEDITATE

Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 40:21-31 (NRSV)

Lector: Rae Smith

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Gospel Lesson ✦

Mark 1:29-39 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Message

"Renewed and Refreshed"

Contemplative Interlude ✦

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

WE RESPOND

Blessing Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give. We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns. We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE COMMUNE

Communion Invitation

May God be with you!

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

We freely give God thanks and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

It is right and good, beautiful and holy that we should, in ceaseless joy give our thanks and praise to you, holy and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. And so, in grateful procession of endless praise with the church that is, was, and shall be forever, we glorify you.

Communion Prayer

Holy are you, Eternal One. You sit above, through, and within the circle of the earth. Setting light into being. Casting the stars in the sky. Founding the evolving earth and all that dwell within it. Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom. You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures. You visit upon the downtrodden with presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice. You sent to us your own child, Jesus, who reached into unexpected places, calling women beyond the limits of their times equipping men for nurturing love. Welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so, we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion, the light of the world took bread, broke and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me."

Life's greatest feast before us, we excitedly proclaim together:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Dear God, you transform. You transform all that is before you so that at the touch of your grace we are never the same. Dear God, you illumine. You bring light to all peoples. Light to the nations. Light into our hearts. Light on your Way. Dear God, we pray for your Spirit. Transform, illumine, bless. Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

In so doing, hold us as your own. Renew us as your people for the sake of the world you love.

For all honor and glory are yours, O God, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation, both now and forever. Amen.

Our Savior's Prayer

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.

Sharing of The Meal ✦

"Adagio from Piano Sonata No. 12"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence. We have been led, Eternal One, by your light. May we be nurtured by your presence now and forevermore. Amen.

Sending Forth

May God bless and keep you. May God's face shine through yours. And may our God protect and keep you all the days long. Amen.

Prelude to Service ✦

"March on the Old Hundredth Psalm Tune"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



Service: Discipleship in Action



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of February 7th



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. Joining by Zoom allows you to be visible, if you choose to be, by using the video camera on your smart phone, tablet, or computer. Joining by calling-in will allow you to hear everyone and to communicate with them without video capability. Regardless of how tech-savvy you are or even if you own any electronic devices or not, you can participate!

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 using our faith as our support guiding us through such times.

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89436145937?pwd=SGxMbWNIYzBqbnJvVE9iUIJYTXI0dz09>

OR

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff by Calling-In: (landline, flip phone, any phone)

- On your phone of choice, dial 301.715.8592
- When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 894 3614 5937
- When prompted, enter the Passcode: 536055

For more info or to find the connection details at any time, go to www.zionreformed.church/adult.

Fellowship Hour Beginning Next Week

Join us for Fellowship Hour on Sundays at 12:30pm or Thursdays at 5:30pm (or both). Grab your favorite food and drink and enjoy a vibrant time of fellowship! A relaxing, intimate time to socialize, share our joys, concerns, and even trials as we support one another, hanging out together safely in a world of social distancing. More information available at <https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.

Join Sunday Fellowship Hour:

By Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854041994?pwd=OEVwVTVLSDJoWjlRcnRlekZ3QWZOdz09>

By Phone: Call 301.715.8592, enter Meeting ID: 868 5404 1994 and Passcode: 519568

Join Thursday Fellowship Hour:

By Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84272676444?pwd=V09IdEdEOVpDM2ZnTmNLNzhMM0RTdz09>

By Phone: Call 301.715.8592, enter Meeting ID: 842 7267 6444 and Passcode: 337217

Ash Wednesday

Mark your calendars for a virtual Ash Wednesday service on February 17th at 7pm at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>. Holy ashes have been mailed out with instruction for preparing them for use during the service for the imposition of ashes as we remember our own mortality as we begin the Lenten season. Lent is a time of repentance, grace, and renewal. Join us as we journey through Lent with the theme: "Repairing: For Such a Time as This!"

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 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

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.

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

Bulletin and Newsletters

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

Records from Last Week

Sunday Worship: 103 online views and 10 shares. | **Soup Kitchen:** 15 meals served.



IMPORTANT DATES

Week of February 7th



Staff Meeting

February 9th, 10am via Zoom

Soup Kitchen

February 9th, 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome, carryout only. Social distancing and masks enforced. Volunteers welcome!

Virtual Sunday Worship

Communion Sunday, February 14th at 11am (Transfiguration Sunday)
Virtual service at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.
(Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am)



OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club February 11th, 4:30pm via Zoom.
Contact Kim Ridenour or the Church Office for more info.

Activity Page Answer Key:

Jesus woke up early in the morning to go pray.
His disciples went to look for Him.
What did they say when they found Him?

Add the numbers from the intersecting row and column to find the letter to fill in the blanks.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	O	S	V	I	E	Y	F
2	S	V	I	E	Y	F	U
3	V	I	E	Y	F	U	N
4	I	E	Y	F	U	N	R
5	E	Y	F	U	N	R	L
6	Y	F	U	N	R	L	K
7	F	U	N	R	L	K	G



... and when they found Him, they exclaimed:

" E V E R E Y O N E
 5 3 5 10 6 1 9 5
I S L O O K I N G
 4 2 11 1 1 12 4 9 13
F O R Y O U
 7 1 10 6 1 8 "

What did Jesus say in reply?

Starting at the bottom right, read right to left and bottom to top, filling in the blanks below.

O	S	L	A	H	C	A	E	R
P	N	A	C	I	S	E	G	A
L	L	I	V	Y	B	R	A	E
N	E	S	L	E	E	R	E	H
W	E	M	O	S	O	G	T	E

Jesus replied, "L e t u s g o
s o m e w h e r e e l s e -
to the n e a r b y v i l l a g e s -
so I c a n p r e a c h there
a l s o. That is why I have come."





COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week



Happy Birthday to Peggy Lowman (Feb 7th) and Brett Hendershot (Feb 8th)!

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 celebration, contact the church office and let us know.

Sondra Talhelm Homecoming

It is with a heavy heart that we share that Sondra Talhelm, wife of Gus Talhelm, passed away on January 27th. [Gus Talhelm](#), a member of Zion, passed away on December 24th, 2020. Due to the pandemic, Sondra's memorial service will be held online via Zoom on February 6, 2021 at 2:15 pm at <https://jworg.zoom.us/j/81143997641?pwd=eXJoYjZoSERiN3BDOUhuK1hPckxyZz09>. The meeting ID is 811 4399 7641 and the passcode is 512185, or participate by calling 301-715-8592.

A graveside service will be held on February 9th at 2 pm at Rose Hill Cemetery. Online condolences may be expressed in the online family guestbook at [Minnich Funeral Home](http://www.minnichfh.com) (www.minnichfh.com). Sondra's obituary can be found at [Herald Mail Media](http://heraldmailmedia.com) (heraldmailmedia.com). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the [Humane Society of Washington County](http://www.hswcmd.org) (www.hswcmd.org), 13011 Maugansville Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

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 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 or call 240.203.0854 by Thursday to be included in Sunday's bulletin.

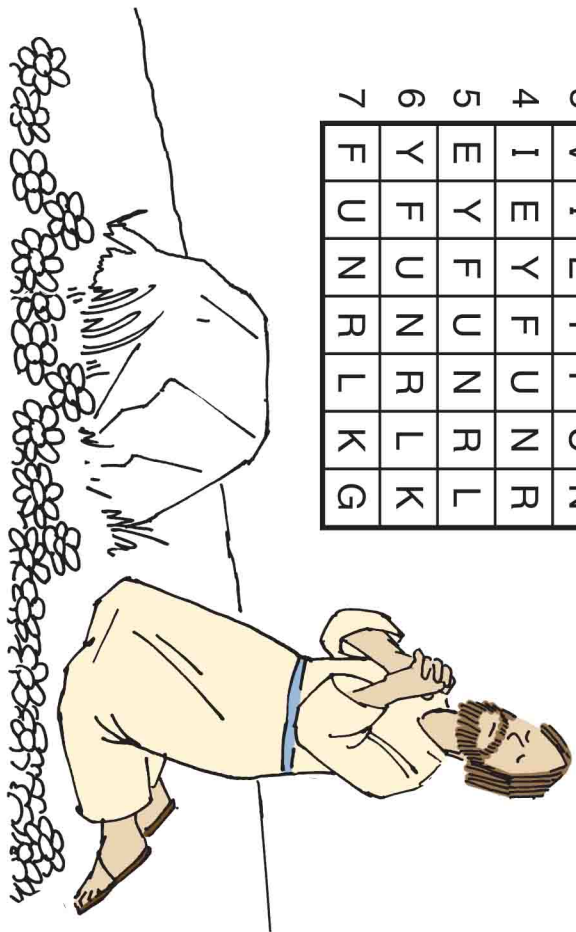


One Community, Many Voices

Jesus woke up early in the morning to go pray.
His disciples went to look for Him.
What did they say when they found Him?

Add the numbers from the intersecting row and column to find the letter to fill in the blanks.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	O	S	V	I	E	Y	F
2	S	V	I	E	Y	F	U
3	V	I	E	Y	F	U	N
4	I	E	Y	F	U	N	R
5	E	Y	F	U	N	R	L
6	Y	F	U	N	R	L	K
7	F	U	N	R	L	K	G



... and when they found Him, they exclaimed:

“ _____
 5 3 5 10 6 1 9 5

 4 2 11 1 1 12 4 9 13

 7 1 10 6 1 8
 _____.”

What did Jesus say in reply?

Starting at the bottom right, read right to left and bottom to top, filling in the blanks below,

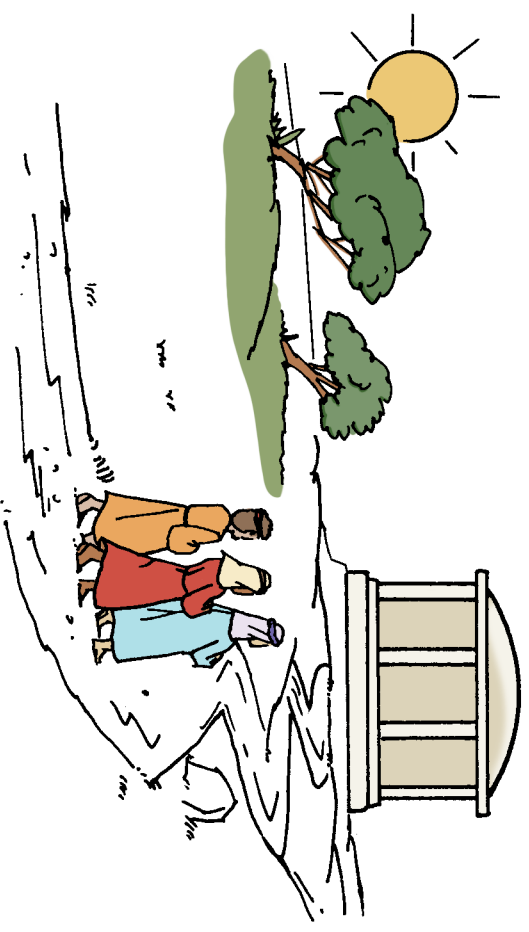
O	S	L	A	H	C	A	E	R
P	N	A	C	I	S	E	G	A
L	L	I	V	Y	B	R	A	E
N	E	S	L	E	E	R	E	H
W	E	M	O	S	O	G	T	E

Jesus replied, “ L _____ us _____

to the _____

so _____ there

_____ . That is why I have come.”



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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

201 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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

Facebook: @ZionRUCC

YouTube: Zion Reformed UCC

Web: www.zionreformed.church

Email: zionrucc@myactv.net

Phone: 301.739.7244



Rev Katie Penick, Interim Minister

Phone: 240.418.8028 Email: zionruccpastor@myactv.net