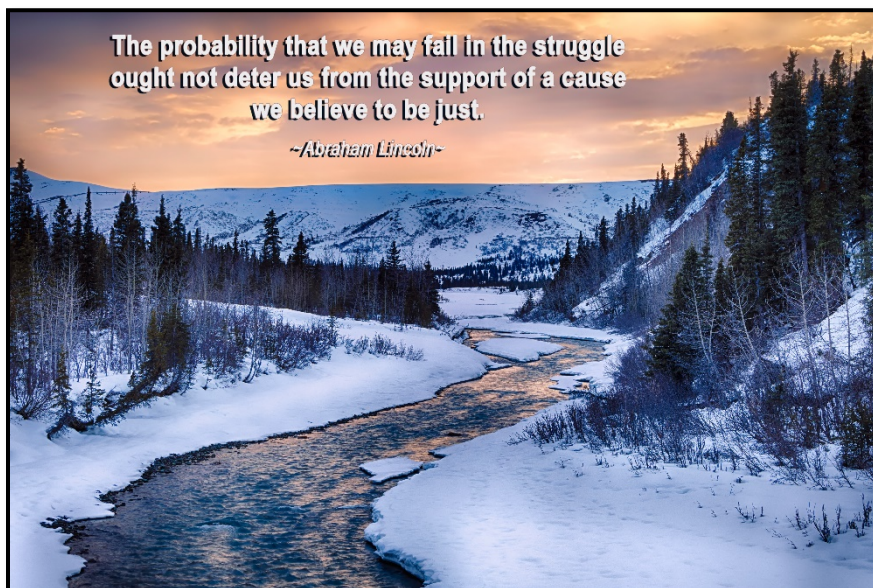


# ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2021 @ 11 A.M.

### SUNDAY BULLETIN



*We Rise from the Wilderness*

**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.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, but this first Sunday in Lent is when many people become aware of the season. If there are rituals to be adopted, they will often begin today for many. So, we are on the brink again, or still, or even for the first time, of the journey. That's why we begin with promise; we begin with covenant. Today's Gospel reading in Genesis 9 reminds us of God's covenant with all living creatures. A covenant that at its heart is simply about relationship and presence. We explore how God never forsakes us and is always by our side, even when we doubt, falter, or fail. Even when we wander for a season in the barren wilderness. Noah found his wilderness on the ark surrounded by water as far as the eye could see. The wilderness takes many forms, and always requires us to confront our fears and anxieties, even our own self. Queen Esther confronted her own wilderness when having to choose between the difficult choice of personal safety or saving her people. Her cousin helped her come to a decision with these profound words: "Perhaps God has brought you here for such a time as this!" This Lent, we will explore what it means for us to be "In Such A Time as This!" This is the time for us to Repair our Relationships with God and with one another. Each week, we will focus on a different scriptural theme: Wilderness, Sacrifice, Protest, Salvation, Covenant and Redemption. Come! Let us Repair: For Such a Time as This!

## *WE GATHER*

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Call to Community

One: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness. As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

**All: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.**

One: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

**All: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.**

One: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer

Creating God, we look for your signs of covenantal promises. Like the rainbow days of Noah, we see and know your signs and hear your voice again directing us to places of preparation and transformation in our lives and in our world. Thank you God, for your covenantal signs and glimpses of your grace in this season of Lent. Amen.

Call to Reconciliation

Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives we need the gift of the season of Lent. These 40 days can help us restore right relationships with God and with others. This is a fine time to focus, clear our hearts and minds of distractions, and re-orient and restore our whole selves. May God be with us. Let us pray:

Prayer of Brokenness

Creating and Renewing God. In this Lenten season we each need the opportunity to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy. Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity so that we don't feel helpless. Help us to start over. Re-orient head and heart so that we may fill our whole selves with life-affirming activities and thoughts.

~Silence is Kept~

**May I be in right relationship with you and all your creation and join together in over-coming violence, hunger, and injustice. May I find courage and clarity to**

**assist me in works of justice and compassion which make daily life bearable for many. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.**

Words of Blessing

Brothers and Sisters, God hears our prayers and, even in our human frailty, and promises to be with us in the wilderness times. Observe, find comfort, and offer with courage to restore and build relationships among God's people. Experience a new and renewed sense of hope. Amen.

Meditative Interlude✧

"This is Our God's World"

*WE MEDITATE*

Hebrew Lesson

Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSV)

Lector: Barb Hendershot

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup> And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup> I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. <sup>16</sup> Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." <sup>17</sup> So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Gospel Lesson✧

Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. <sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The Message – *Stuck in the Wilderness*

Contemplative Interlude✧

"Great is Your Faithfulness"

## *WE RESPOND*

### Invitation to Give

The Psalmist writes: "All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees." Our church's ministries are extensions of God's love and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving of our time, energy, and money. With love let us offer our gifts to God.

### Blessing Our Gifts (Prayer of Dedication)

God of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts to be bounty and blessings to you, our church, and the world, as we join our voices together in prayer...

### 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.**

### Sending Forth

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: Walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God. Walk in peace, under the shelter of the Spirit. And walk, in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen.

### Prelude to Service✦

"Fugue in G-Minor"

*GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!*





## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of February 21<sup>st</sup>



### Fellowship Hour

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

### Adult Sunday School

A new Adult Sunday School class led by Sue Graff begins today, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

For more info or to find the connection details at any time, go to [www.zionreformed.church/adult](http://www.zionreformed.church/adult).

#### Join Adult Sunday School by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89436145937?pwd=SGxMbWNlYzBqbNjVVE9iUlJYTXI0dz09>


OR

#### Join Adult Sunday School 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



## 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! Contact the Church Office to submit your prayer requests or request a list of names to include your Zion siblings who have requested prayer in your prayers.

## 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](http://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. Give online at [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.

## Records from Last Week

**Sunday Worship:** 107 online views and 5 shares. | **Soup Kitchen:** 24 meals served.





## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Week of February 21<sup>st</sup>



### **Sunday Fellowship Hour After Worship**

February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm via Zoom

Details on previous page or visit [www.zionreformed.church/fellowship](http://www.zionreformed.church/fellowship).

### **Soup Kitchen**

February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome, carryout only.

Social distancing and masks enforced. Volunteers welcome!

### **Staff Meeting**

February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am via Zoom

### **Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club**

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at [miskim@myactv.net](mailto:miskim@myactv.net) for more info.

### **Thursday Fellowship Hour**

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm via Zoom

Details on previous page or visit [www.zionreformed.church/fellowship](http://www.zionreformed.church/fellowship).



### **Next Sunday's Service Schedule**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am**

More info at [www.zionreformed.church/education](http://www.zionreformed.church/education)

#### **Sunday Worship (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent), at 11am**

Worship virtually at [www.zionreformed.church/sermons](http://www.zionreformed.church/sermons).

#### **Sunday Fellowship Hour at 12:30pm**

Details on previous page or visit [www.zionreformed.church/fellowship](http://www.zionreformed.church/fellowship).



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are a community of believers who support one another in love, prayer, and faith! We celebrate one another's joys. Our hearts ache when one of our community hurts. We listen when one has a concern. Most importantly we love one another and support one another in any way that we can. We also pray for one another. Let us share our joys, concerns, and announcements with one another!

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



Happy Birthday to Bill Wantz (Feb 21<sup>st</sup>) and Kristen Kelly (Feb 28<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 celebration, contact the church office and let us know.*

### **L. Victor Crist Jr. Homecoming**

It is with a sad heart that we share another homecoming within our flock: L. Victor Crist Jr. went to be with our Lord on February 13<sup>th</sup>. A funeral service was held February 20<sup>th</sup> in the chapel at Northside Chapel Funeral Directors in Roswell, GA. Interment is at Georgia National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Zion Reformed UCC where Victor was a lifelong member. Online condolences may be expressed in the online family guestbook at [Northside Chapel](http://www.northsidechapel.com) ([www.northsidechapel.com](http://www.northsidechapel.com)). An obituary is published in [Herald Mail Media](http://heraldmailmedia.com) ([heraldmailmedia.com](http://heraldmailmedia.com))

### **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.



*One Community, Many Voices*

### **Activity Page Answer Key:**

#### *Replace the Words:*

The time has come. He said, the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!

#### *Crossword Puzzle:*

You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.





What did Jesus say?

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

TIME	NEAR	THE	SAID
HAS	COME	BELIEVE	GOOD

“THE TOME HAS COMB,”

HE PAID,

“SHE KINGDOM OF

GOD HAT COME BEAR.

REPENT AND

RELIEVE

THE GOLD NEWS!”

Ages 7+

February 21, 2021 • Mark 1:9-15

Jesus: Temptation and Good News

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River,  
He saw heaven being torn open and He heard a voice.  
What did the voice from heaven say?

Shade in all the shapes with a \* symbol to find the answers.

ISGORNEELAMIT  
JVFEBRIBGORRS  
EADTLHOPVIEI  
ELAMTFIOIRLE  
PILIELAJSFEID

“You are My \_\_\_\_\_, Whom I \_\_\_\_\_;  
with You I am well \_\_\_\_\_.”




Zion Reformed United Church of Christ  
201 N Potomac Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
www.ZionReformed.church

# Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Services 2021



## Worship with Us!

 **Lent:** The season of Lent is a time for personal reflection, repentance, and growth. It is a season where we focus upon prayer, fasting, and works of love as expressions of our faith. A season of renewal and grace, restoring right relationships, letting God lead, and the light shine out of the darkness as we journey to the cross. While a solemn season of penitence and reflection, Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, and reflection that ultimately lead to celebration. This Lent we will focus on repair, “Repairing: For Such a time as this!”

<b>Ash Wednesday Virtual Worship Service</b> , February 17 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm	✦	(Lent Begins)
<b>First Week in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , February 21 <sup>st</sup> at 11am	✦	(Wilderness)
<b>Second Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , February 28 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Sacrifice)
<b>Third Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , March 7 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Protest)
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , March 14 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Salvation)
<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , March 21 <sup>st</sup> at 11am	✦	(Covenant)
<b>Palm Sunday Virtual Worship Service</b> , March 28 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Redemption)

\*All Worship Services available virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>.

\*\*For more info about Sunday Fellowship Hour and Thursday Fellowship Hour: <https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.



**Holy Week & Easter:** Holy Week continues our journey toward the cross, taking us through the shame and suffering endured by Christ to those torturous final moments upon the cross. But Easter is only around the corner, that glorious morning we know all so well! That morning when Christ conquered death and rose from the dead giving us new life, ensuring that grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love are available to us every day, anytime we need it. And, oh how we need it every day! As we celebrate the transformative power of the new life Christ offers us this Easter season, we will focus our attention on “Renewing: Is Anything too Wonderful for Our God?”

<b>Maundy Thursday Zoom Service</b> , April 1 <sup>st</sup> at 7pm	✦	(Bread & Cup of Life)
<b>Good Friday Virtual Service</b> , April 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 7pm	✦	(It is Finished)
<b>Easter Sunday Virtual Service</b> , April 4 <sup>th</sup> (Available at Sunrise)	✦	(New Life)

\*Maundy Thursday Service will be via Zoom/dial-in and will be uploaded to the website at the conclusion of the service. All other Worship Services available virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>.

\*\*There will be no Adult Sunday School at 9:45am on Easter Sunday, nor Sunday Fellowship Hour at 12:30pm on Easter Sunday due to family gatherings. Sunday School will resume the following week via Zoom and dial-in at 9:45am, as will Sunday Fellowship Hour at 12:30pm via Zoom and dial-in on Sunday afternoons. <https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.

## SERVICE CREDITS

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**Zion Reformed United Church of Christ**

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