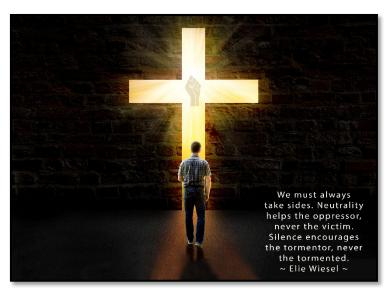
ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 7TH, 2021 № 11 A.M. SUNDAY BULLETIN



Holy Protest

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! If you have been with us for some time, welcome!

Our Lenten worship series explores the *holy protests* of the scriptures today. Just as God protested the sin of the Israelites as they wandered the desert on their way to the Promised Land, leading God to give them the Ten Commandments as a guide. It is in the Ten Commandments that we live out commitment: commitments we make to one another within the life of the community of faith and with God. They help define who we are as the body of Christ as they did for the Israelites, and were summed up by Jesus in his infamous, two great commands. We celebrate their constant reminder that we live in covenant with one another. They provide us a time of soul searching and confession. A time of admitting that we may live up to the law while not necessarily approaching its spirit. They provide a time of healing our relationships. It takes courage, certainly, to be vulnerable enough to admit brokenness, but part of the promise we celebrate is the promise of community. They celebrate holy protest too. Just as Jesus protested the temple marketplace as to not defile the holy place, challenging the traditions and the understanding of how we define God and where we confine God to, we are challenged to do so also. Today we label our holy protests as social justice, or as Justice & Witness. But at the heart of every holy protests is the underlying question, "Where do we find God?" As we seek cleansing while throwing away the confession and embracing God's grace, we move beyond the rending of our hearts into the claiming of the promise, becoming signs of the promise by how we choose to be the body of Christ together. Though, we find God in our homes as we worship separately, together, this day, we come before God, finding our Creator. Where else do we find God? Let us worship Almighty God this day, as we explore, where do we find God?

Come! Let us Repair: For Such a Time as This!

WE GATHER

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship

*Claire de Lune"

Call to Community Based on Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

All: May our worship reflect God's glory.

One: The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

All: May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

One: Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation, project the love of God.

All: We commune with Christians around the world,

with Christians throughout time.

One: With Christians across geography and across time,

All: Let us worship!

Call to Reconciliation

Inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving. You are greater than we can understand;

Open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths you have shown to us in Jesus.

You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

Help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we may learn what you want us to be.

You are wiser than we can know;

Still our minds as we worship you, so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.

Loving God, in Jesus you chose to come to the world in humility. You chose the path the world saw as foolish. You used what the world considered weak.

We worship and adore you. Amen.

Meditative Interlude \(^\frac{1}{2}\) "Lord, Speak to Me"

WE MEDITATE

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 20:1-17 (NRSV)

Lector: Carroll Sager

¹ Then God spoke all these words: ² I am your LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for

yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of their parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. 12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Gospel Lesson[♦]

John 2:13-22 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Message: Where Do We Find God?

Contemplative Interlude

"Dear Lord and Creator of All Kind"

WE RESPOND

Blessing Our Gifts (Prayer of Dedication)

God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude,

rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give these offerings in faith,

trusting that you will provide for our needs.

We give these offerings in hope,

knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

May we live with generous hearts, with open hands.

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to Christ's Table

We hear the echo of the tables being overturned. The marching feet of those who continue to cry out for justice and a new way. We hear the cries of those who look at the cross and all it represents as foolish and old fashioned. But still we hope. We remember another table...we remember other cries... and still we hope. Today, we gather together this table, and we remember. We remember the stories of hope and help. We remember the calls for justice and mercy. We remember that, in Jesus, God calls us to embrace life in a new way.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the Lord of the journey be with you.

And also with you.

Pilgrims of God, lift up your hearts.

We offer them to the One who denied himself to carry us into life forever.

Sing songs of thanksgiving to the God who is faithful in keeping promises.

We offer glad anthems of joy to the One who calls us by name.

Communion Prayer with Words of Institution, Proclamation of Faith, and Our Savior's Prayer

O God, out of that barrenness called chaos you called into life all that is good and true: Your face shining in the starlight, your voice echoing in the crashing waves, your heart, your hopes, your love poured into those created in your image. Showering them with peace and mercy, you began to teach them all they needed in order to live in hope, and in joy, with you. But setting their minds on all the desires which temptation revealed to them, they began to turn away from you, denying your dreams for them, as we thought only of ourselves. You continued to speak of your promises, sending the prophets into all the barren places where we lived and worked and dreamed, but we were ashamed of the words they spoke, and would not listen to the love which formed them. So, you asked the One called the Word to leave your side and walk before you, coming to live with us. And so, we join our voices with those from every time and in every place, on earth as it is in heaven, who forever call out your praises:

Holy, holy are you, God of the mountaintops. The heavens join all creation to tell of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who is foolish for our sake.
Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, God of Abraham and Sarah; God of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. You are blessed forever. When Jesus could have stumbled over our distrust, he called us to follow him into your promises; when our rejection could have weakened his faith, he grew strong in his commitment to deny himself; when he could have remained silent, he declared your salvation to all, even to those not yet alive; when he could have hidden his face in fear, he turned towards Jerusalem, going to his death and into the grave, that you might give life to all who had died to sin. As we come to the Table he has prepared, we declare that in his crucifixion and resurrection we find that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, the rock which broke sin's power; Christ was raised, death conquered by our redeemer; Christ will return, desiring us more than anything in all creation.

Here, at this Table, where the gifts of the bread and the cup are offered to your children gathered around, pour out your Spirit of healing and hope. Feed us with the food of heaven which can make us whole once more, so we can go to serve all whom we have treated with contempt. Nourish us with the cup of life which can change us into your faithful people, so we can go to bring healing to those disabled by our prejudices. Let us always remember that we are connected by faith, just as we remember those connections whenever we join our voices in our common prayer that Christ so lovingly taught us:

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.

The Story

The Meal ♦

At this time partake of the elements of the sacred meal that you have prepared at home, and that we blessed together as the united family of God saying:

As you partake of the bread element: "The body of Christ, broken for me."

And as you partake of the cup: "The blood of Christ."

Sending Forth

Go into the world without fear, knowing that the weakness of the Holy is stronger than every human power. Live free! And the God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt, and leads us towards new life and new hope will be your strength and your power. Amen.

Prelude to Service

"Trumpet Tune in C-Major"

A Letter from our Central Atlantic Conference Minister

A letter to Pastor's within the conference and the flocks they shepherd



God is still speaking,

Dear CAC Pastor,

First, we thank God for you and your leadership as we journey through this Lenten Season. You are shepherding your congregations through a time never imagined when you accepted your call to ministry. You bear much on your shoulders with the spiritual care and leadership of those you serve. Yet, one could neither know nor imagine being a shepherd through the events of the past year. We are approaching roughly one year since the COVID-19 pandemic forced us out of our physical church settings. Your Conference Ministry Team continues to marvel at the faithful, resourceful, and inventive ways you have led and pastored during this time.

There is hope for an end to this pandemic as more people receive vaccinations. Praise God for that. However, we are not out of the woods' concerning gathering in person. A recent *New York Times* article expressed optimism that the United States could reach 'herd immunity' as early as late spring depending on the pace of vaccinations and the recent approval of a vaccine last week. ¹However, experts strongly advise that we maintain precautions of mask-wearing, social distancing, washing of hands, and refraining from large crowds because there is uncertainty around: 1) the longevity of protection or immunity provided by the vaccines; 2) protection against new variants of COVID-19; and 3) the possibility of asymptomatic transmission of the virus. There are other unknowns with these vaccines regardless of the hopeful signs.

We encourage you to worship either virtually or as good weather will allow, physically, practicing social distancing. In either event, we *strongly* recommend you follow the COVID-19 safety protocols as directed by the CDC, state and local health officials. You and your church settings must remain vigilant in maintaining precautions in your gathering together for worship and other meetings, whether in-person or virtual. Your safety and the safety of those you serve are still paramount.

However, since there appears to be a glimmer of light at the end of this long tunnel, we also believe that perhaps in this season of Lent, some communal reflection and discernment might also be appropriate and useful. The following questions might be helpful in that regard.

- 1. What is something you did before the pandemic that you are looking forward to doing again?
- 2. What is something you started to do during the pandemic that you hope to continue?
- 3. What is something you did before the pandemic that you want to let go of?
- 4. What is something you started to do during the pandemic that you will be happy to stop?

These questions work best if the answers are rooted in a role. You could preface each of these questions with phrases like "As this church's pastor...", "As a member...", "As this church's custodian...", etc. It works best if the answers are as specific as possible, too." ²

We hope the above tools will be helpful discernment tools for your church settings.

Finally, we ask that you save two dates on your calendars. First, on **April 11, 2021**, the Sunday following Easter, the Conference Ministers will partner jointly with the National Setting of the UCC to offer virtual worship for your use that day. Second, on **May 30, 2021**, the Conference will again provide a virtual worship service you may use in place of services that day. We pray that these will provide a respite for you in planning and leading worship that Sunday. Please be on the lookout for further notices about these offerings.

We know how long this season has been for you. It has been that way for us as too. Please know that we are here for you. We are praying for you. We appreciate you and the ministry that you are offering with extraordinary faith, courage, and grace. Your Conference Ministry Team is exploring ways we can support you through this season and beyond. Please let us know how we can be of help to you. Most of all, we thank God for you.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Freeman L. Palmer Conference Minister

Helson R Murphy

Rev. Nelson R. Murphy

Interim Associate Conference Minister

Rev. Marvin M. Silver

Associate Conference Minister

Marin Silver

¹ https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/25/health/coronavirus-united-states.html

² https://centeringout.blog/202



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of March 7th



Adult Sunday School

Join Sue Graff via Zoom or dial-in from your phone (any phone, even landline or flip phone). Sunday mornings at 9:45am. We hope you will join us!

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff by going to https://zoom.us or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 894 3614 5937 and Passcode: 536055. *Zoom users may join using One-Click Join without entering meeting information. For more info or to find the connection details at any time, go to www.zionreformed.church/adult.

Lenten Worship Series Continues:

As Queen Esther was confronted with 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!" Throughout Lent, we are exploring 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 focus on a different scriptural theme: 1) Wilderness, 2) Sacrifice, 3) **Protest**, 4) Salvation, 5) Covenant and the last Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday, we will explore the theme of redemption.

Fellowship Hour

Join us for Fellowship Hour after church today at 12:30pm or Thursday's at 5:30pm (or both). Grab your favorite food and drink and enjoy a vibrant time of fellowship together, relaxing and socializing as we share our joys, concerns, and even trials. Hanging out together safely in a world of social distancing. More information available at https://zionreformed.church/fellowship.

Join Sunday Fellowship Hour by going to https://zoom.us/join or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted enter Meeting ID: 868 5404 1994 and Passcode: 519568. *Zoom users may join using One-Click Join without entering meeting information.

Join Thursday Fellowship Hour by going to https://zoom.us/join or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted enter Meeting ID: 842 7267 6444 and Passcode: 337217. *Zoom users may join using One-Click Join without entering meeting information.

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.



Days of Awareness this Week

Amistad Sunday is today: A commemoration of the Amistad struggle, a case that restored freedom to African slaves transported on the Amistad ship, becoming a symbol in the United States in the movement to abolish slavery. A just world for all! Learn more about the Amistad incident, and the American Missionary Association which is rooted in our UCC history.

UCC Women's Week: March $7^{th} - 13^{th}$, commemorating International Women's Day on March 8^{th} , celebrating women's achievements, and raising awareness for women's equality. Learn about UCC Women's Justice Ministries and women's justice issues.

International Women's Day: A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women that marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Find out more and get involved this International Women's Day.

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14th

Daylight Savings Time, also called Spring Forward and Summer Time, begins Sunday, March 14th. Remember to Set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week

Happy Birthday to **Linda Franks** (Mar 7th), **Tina Shafer** (Mar 7th), **Christian Grosh** (Mar Mar 8th), **Liz Dattilio** (Mar 9th), and **Julia Patterson** (Mar 11th). 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.

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.

Records from Last Week

Sunday Worship: 31 online views and 2 shares. | **Soup Kitchen:** 28 meals served.





Sunday Fellowship Hour After Worship

March 7th at 12:30pm via Zoom Details on previous page or visit www.zionreformed.church/fellowship.

Search & Call Committee Meeting

The Pastoral Search Team meets March 8th at 5:30pm via Zoom. There is still room for you to be on this team, contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net or the Church Office.

Soup Kitchen

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

Staff Meeting

March 11th at 10am via Zoom

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

March 11th, 4:30pm via Zoom.
Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Thursday Fellowship Hour

March 11th, 5:30pm via Zoom

Details on previous page or visit www.zionreformed.church/fellowship.



Next Sunday's Service Schedule March 14th

Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am

More info at www.zionreformed.church/education

Sunday Worship (4th Sunday in Lent), at 11am

Worship virtually at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.

Sunday Fellowship Hour at 12:30pm

Details on previous page or visit www.zionreformed.church/fellowship.

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!"

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

^{*}All Worship Services available virtually at https://zionreformed.church/sermons.

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?"

Maundy Thursday Zoom Service, April 1st at 7pm

← (Bread & Cup of Life)

Good Friday Virtual Service, April 2nd at 7pm

← (It is Finished)

Easter Sunday Virtual Service, April 4th (Available at Sunrise)

← (New Life)

^{**}For more info about Sunday Fellowship Hour and Thursday Fellowship Hour: https://zionreformed.church/fellowship.

^{*}Maundy Thursday Service will be via Zoom/dial-in and will be uploaded to the website at the conclusion of the service. There will be no Thursday Fellowship Hour this evening as fellowship will be incorporated into this special service. Virtual Worship services are available at https://zionreformed.church/sermons.

^{**}There will be no Sunday School classes or Fellowship Hour on Easter Sunday due to family gatherings. Sunday School will resume the following week via Zoom and dial-in at 9:45am. Thursday Fellowship will be unaffected by the holiday celebrations. Sunday School info can be found at https://zionreformed.church/education. Fellowship Hours information can be found at: https://zionreformed.church/fellowship.

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Communion Hymn: "The Lord's Prayer" – Tune, "Malotte," by Albert Hay Malotte (1935), ©1935, renewed, by G. Schirmer, Inc. Lyrics from trad. liturgical text. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

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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: pastorkt143@gmail.com