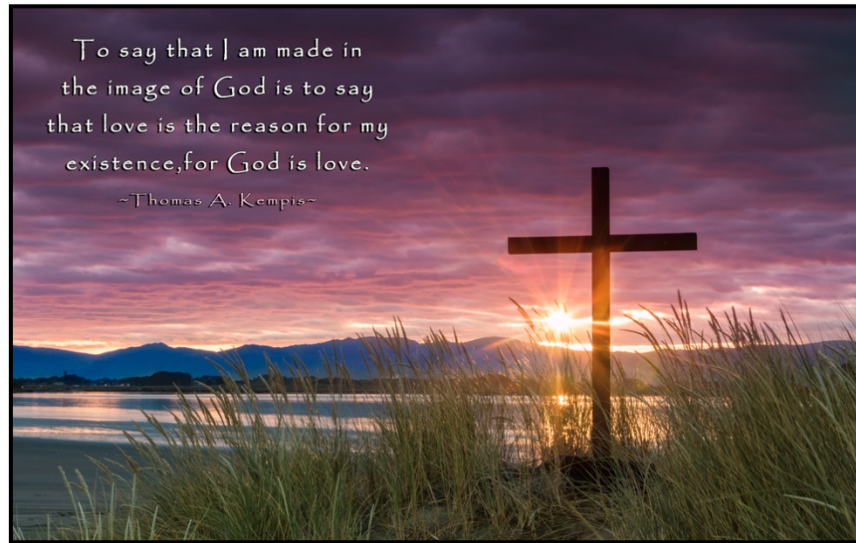


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 14TH, 2021 @ 11 A.M.
SUNDAY BULLETIN



Look Up and Live!

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!

Today, our Lenten worship series brings us to the scriptural theme of salvation. Salvation belongs to our God! but what is salvation, and what does it entail? In our scripture lessons today, we read about Moses and the bronze snake. Within these scriptures we find God teaching us about faith, and Jesus predicting his death while speaking of the doorway that it opened for all of us. It is totally illogical to think that looking at a bronze image could heal anyone from snakebite, but that is exactly what God told them to do. It took an act of faith in God's plan for anyone to be healed, and the serpent on the stick was a reminder of their sin which brought about their suffering. Jesus tells us that this bronze serpent was a foreshadowing of him: a symbol of sin and judgment, lifted up from the earth and placed on a tree (Galatians 3:13). Just as the Israelites had to look to the upraised symbol in the wilderness for God's healing, we look to the upraised Jesus, cursed and lifted upon the cross, for our salvation. In both scenarios those involved must look up and believe. Underneath it all, the lesson we find, is a call to commitment. That is what "Look Up and Live" means. "Look up" calls us to move out of ourselves and to allow someone else to take the lead, to take the center of our beings. "Look up" means see the hope for our own life and the lives of those we love and indeed the whole world not in ourselves, but in the person of Jesus Christ and his redeeming grace. The question we are left with is how will we live out this commitment of salvation? Will we be witnesses to the power of a reclaimed life, of renewed starts, of healed relationships and healed bodies? Will we embrace and share this gift of salvation, committing to act, spreading hope and love to all people without judgment as we are commissioned to do?

Let us Repair: For Such a Time as This! Come, let us worship the God of Salvation, forgiveness, and grace.

WE GATHER

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"Fugue in D-Minor"

Call to Community

One: We come, to offer all we have to God:

All: Our minds, our bodies; our hearts, our hopes.

One: We come, to offer all we are to God:

**All: Our relationships with families and friends,
our longing to draw closer to other pilgrims.**

One: We come, to offer all we would be to God:

All: Our faith, our discipleship; our yearning to follow Jesus.

One: We come, to offer ourselves to God:

All: Who offers life, joy, and peace in Jesus Christ!

Centering Prayer

Settle into your seats and close your eyes.

Visualize a place of emptiness, of shadows.

What comes up for you?

If this first image is too disturbing, find another place of imagination that offers you comfort and peace.

Imagine your presence there.

Now imagine that with you is the presence of Jesus as a glimmer of light.

What does that light look like?

Stay there a moment with Jesus, the Light.

As you focus your attention on the glimmer of light, hear this:

For God so loved the World that God gave God's only begotten child

For God so loved the World that God gave

For God so loved the World

For God so loved

So loved

The World

God

Prayer of Reconciliation

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge, we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did, full of complaints and frustration. Nothing is enough; we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

Forgive us. --In our complaints, challenge us, as you did the Israelites, to consider the bigger picture of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us. Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us...lift up loving and compassionate leaders to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.

~ Silence is Kept~

Words of Blessing

You are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of you. So, return God's blessing by the way you love others.

Meditative Interlude✦

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

WE MEDITATE

Hebrew Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV)

Lector: Michael Jones

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Gospel Lesson✦

John 3:14-21 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

Consider the steadfast love of God in every breath you breathe. May that faithful love inspire you to give from your heart, so that we may live into God's Reign of peace and compassion through the variety of offerings of our own church.

Blessing Our Gifts

A Prayer of Dedication

O God, you are so generous. We give thanks to you for your faithful love that endures forever. May these gifts be used to feed the hunger and satisfy the thirst of all those you love, throughout your creation. Amen.

Prayer of Our Savior

**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

Let us rejoice: God so loves the world! May the God who created each of us send you back into the world with creative energies refreshed. May Christ the Light brighten your fearful moments. And may the Holy Spirit of faithful love guide you until we worship together again. This day and forevermore. Amen!

Prelude to Service[✦]

"Concerto in A-Minor"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!





CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of March 14th



Palm Sunday Outdoor Service:



Special Announcement! Plan to join us for Palm Sunday at a special outdoor service in Zion's parking lot. Bring your mask and lawn chair with a heart ready to worship for a special time of worship and fellowship. Social distancing measures will be in place to ensure safety. Join us as we celebrate Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem and prepare for the passion of Holy Week's events.

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 will 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. Join us for this special Lenten Worship Series, "Repairing: For Such a Time as This!"

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour options twice weekly via Zoom. Choose one or both:

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.*

Adult Sunday School

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff at 9:45am every Sunday 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 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.

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.

Prayer Requests



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray with our Zion siblings and their loved ones: Kelly Bedard, Holly Bell, Naomi Bracket, Linda Cantilena, Kim & Bill Cook, Crist Family, Ruth Dwyer, Elan Foutch, Mike Heyser, Jeanne France Hvidding, Ann Kalinoski, Kauffman Family, Richard Lohman, Mike Lorfing, David Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Donna Rae Seidel, Diana Shafer, Staci Shafer, Darla Smith, Robert Yeoman.

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week



Happy Birthday to **Christine Coleman** (Mar 14th), **Bonnie Hart** (Mar 17th), **Hallie Green** (Mar 18th), and **Kent Shafer** (Mar 20th). 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 is filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial, should any arise, that you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.

Saint Patrick's Day Blessings

According to television and the internet, St. Patrick's Day was made for the 21-and-over crowd and is best celebrated by dropping green food coloring into everything you eat and drink. St. Patrick's Day started as a religious celebration in the 17th century to commemorate the life of the 5th century man known as Patrick. Patrick dedicated his life to helping bring Christianity to Ireland, earning him the position of Ireland's patron saint even though he has never been canonized by the Roman Catholic church. Also known as "Feast Day," it always took place on the anniversary of Patrick's death. In the early 18th century, Irish immigrants brought the tradition over to the American colonies, and it was here that Saint Patrick started to become the symbol of Irish heritage and culture that he is today. St. Patrick was a brave man who returned to Ireland, where he had been kept as a slave, to help convert the people of Ireland to Christianity from paganism. He lived with constant danger to his life. Legend has it he drove away the snakes of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. Saint Patrick's Day is a celebration of overcoming all the ways that evil has tried to take us down and praying for even the people who seek to hurt us.

This year consider making St. Patrick's Day about the dedication of the icon behind the day and the faith he worked so hard to share, not just about leprechauns and rainbows. Enjoy one of these activities together as a family (or just yourself) and discuss/contemplate the Holy Trinity:

- ❖ For breakfast, try making fried eggs cooked in a horizontal slice of a green pepper. It will look like a shamrock!
- ❖ Go outside and hunt for shamrocks.
- ❖ Do a shamrock craft such as coloring a picture or making a shamrock out of construction paper.
- ❖ Plant and grow your own shamrocks.



Records from Last Week

Sunday Worship: 20 online views | **Soup Kitchen:** 6 meals served.



IMPORTANT DATES

Week of March 14th



Sunday Fellowship Hour After Worship

March 14th at 12:30pm via Zoom

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

April Newsletter Deadline

March 15th at Noon

Soup Kitchen

March 16th from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome, carryout only.
Social distancing and masks enforced. **Volunteers welcome!**

Staff Meeting

March 18th at 10am via Zoom.

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

March 18th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Thursday Fellowship Hour

March 18th, 5:30pm via Zoom

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

Zion Book Club

March 19th at 7pm at the home of Sue Graff.

Book Selection: "No One Ever Asked" by Katie Ganshert.

**GET
INVOLVED!**

Plan to Worship with Us Next Sunday, March 21st

Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am

More info at www.zionreformed.church/education

Sunday Worship (5th 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 21 st 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 21 st at 11am	✦	(Covenant)
Palm Sunday Outdoor Worship Service , March 28 th 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?"

Maundy Thursday Zoom Service , April 1 st at 5:30pm	✦	(Bread & Cup of Life)
Good Friday Virtual Service , April 2 nd (Available beginning at 1pm)	✦	(It is Finished)
Easter Sunday Virtual Service , April 4 th (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. 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 Hour information can be found at: <https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.

Saint Patrick

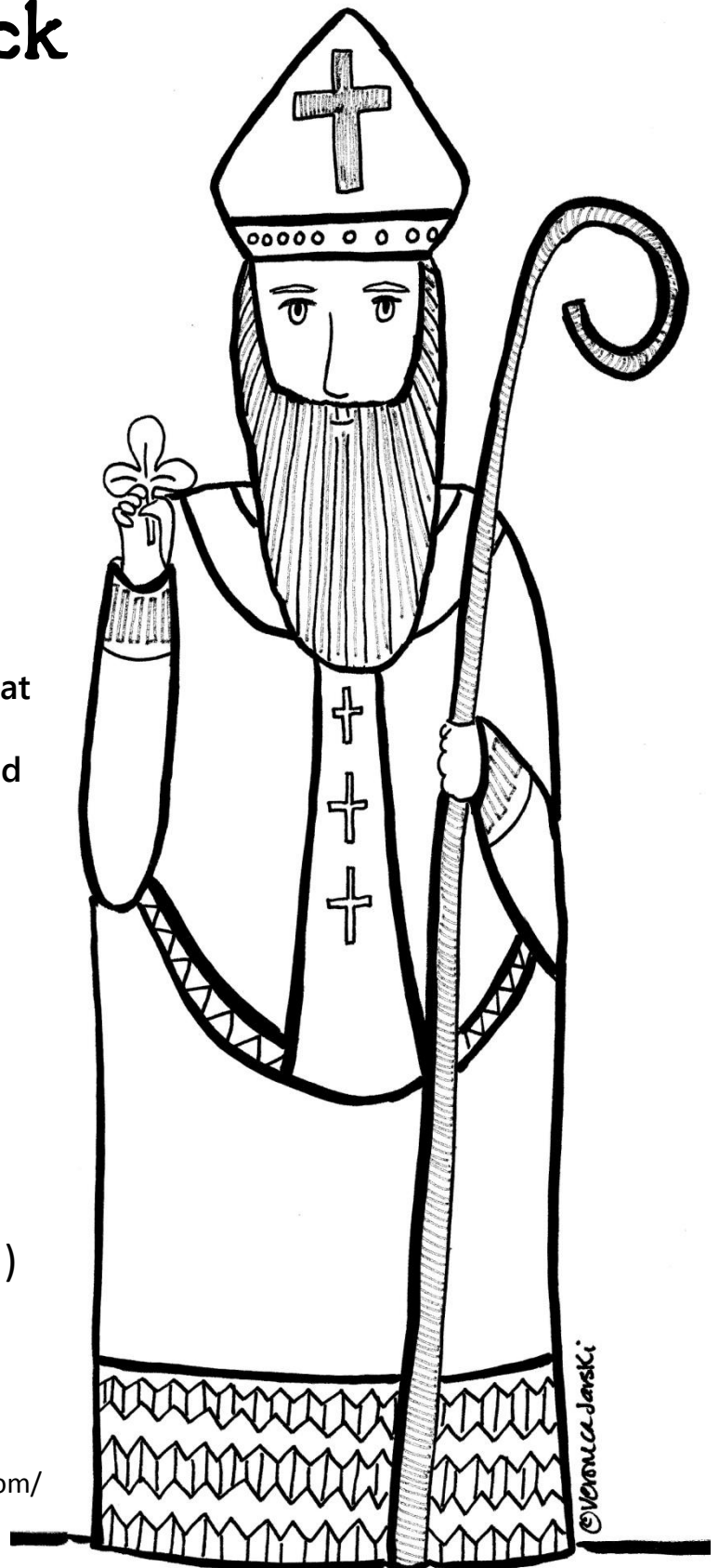
"Christ be with me,
Christ within me.
Christ behind me,
Christ before me.
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort me
and restore me.
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me.
Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that
love me.
Christ in mouth of friend
or stranger."
St. Patrick's Breastplate
(390-461 A.D.)

Born: 387

Died: 461

Patron saint of:
Ireland (and more!)

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<http://paperdali.blogspot.com/>



I'M NOT
LUCKY



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Gospel Lesson Segue: "Lord, Hear My Voice" – Composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1707), "Out of the Depths I Cry, Lord, To You" (BWV 131), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [IMSLP](http://imslp.org) (imslp.org) and [Bach Cantatas](http://bach-cantatas.com) (bach-cantatas.com).

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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