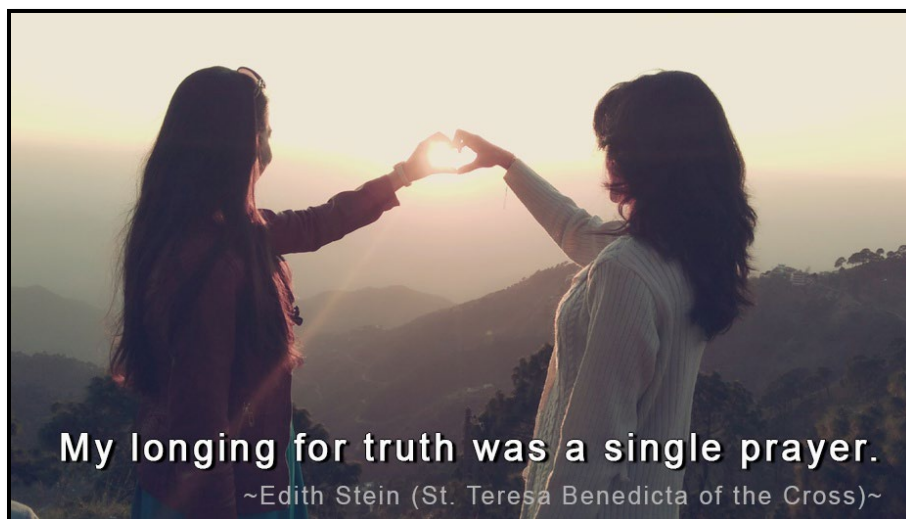


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 9TH, 2021 @ 11A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Renewing: Is Anything too Wonderful for Our God? (Love)

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! Welcome back to in-person worship! Please remember to properly wear your face mask at all times inside and to socially distance. Let us bask in God's love together as we worship our God, seeking guidance on how to love as Christ loves! Renewing Love, is anything too wonderful for our God?

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WE GATHER

Gathering Music ✨

“Album für die Jugend”

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✨

“What A Friend”

Call to Community

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us with a new song.

All: Let our joy be complete.

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song.

All: Love one another.

One: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in a new song.

All: No longer servants but friends!

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise.

All: Rejoicing in the friendship of God.

Mother’s Day Litany

Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

Thank God for mothers!

Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

Thank God for my mother!

For those women who have joined God in Heaven and whom we miss dearly here on earth.

Thank God for the mothers of the past.

For every woman who is working day and night to rear her children right now.

Thank God for the mothers of today.

For all the women who are expecting but aren’t quite mothers yet!

Thank God for soon-to-be-mothers.

For the women who took in others’ children through adoption and foster care.

Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.

For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.

Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.

For all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own but chose instead to mother everyone else.

Thank God for the mothers in spirit. We thank you for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Amen.

WE MEDITATE

Epistle Lesson

1 John 5:1-6 (NRSV)

Lector: Carol Mooers

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Lesson✦

John 15:9-17 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The Message

Paying It Forward

Contemplative Interlude✦

"Morning Has Broken"

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

It is one thing to memorize the words of Jesus. But it is another thing to let those words transform us and rearrange our priorities and our lives. In these moments for quiet and reflection, what is it that God is inviting you to rearrange about your priorities? What is it that you want to offer to the Church and to the world as a practice of God's love?

O God, Source of All Blessings, may each gift given be a reflection of our love and be used to spread the Good News of your never-ending, transformative love. Abide in these gifts, O God, so that they bear lasting fruit. Amen.

Mother's Day Reflection Video

"For All Women: A Mother's Day Blessing"

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Setting the Table

Grain is gathered from the field; threshed and milled for flour.

We are formed from the grain of God's harvest.

Flour is mixed with water to produce dough.

The water of baptism unites us.

Yeast is added to transform the mixture.

The vision of God's realm draws us onwards.

Oil softens the dough and makes a new texture.

The Holy Spirit anoints us as the body of Christ.

A little salt improves the taste.

Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth.

The bread is kneaded and shaped, molded and baked.

It is God who makes us a Holy Communion.

Grapes are harvested and crushed for juice.

You are the vine, we are the branches, O Christ.

Juice and skins are mixed with yeast for fermentation.

God's reign is coming. God's hope is here.

There is a time of waiting; then a time of pressing.

God's new life presses forth through the sediment of our lives.

And finally, the feast is here!

Let us celebrate the feast of our life in God.

The Story

The Meal ✦

The Prayer

O Jesus, our beloved Savior, we thank you for inviting us to your table and sharing your feast. May we know that we have been fed with love and grace, and may we follow you out in the world as beloved friends. Filled with your Spirit, may we share your promises of hope and peace with our sisters and brothers, as we also share the prayer that you taught us...

Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Sending Forth

Go into your week, knowing that you are embraced by the love of God; a love that is sweeter and more tender than any you have ever known. Peace be with you. Amen.

Prelude to Service ✨

"Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen"



GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of May 9th



Outdoor Worship Service Next Sunday

We will worship outside next week in our beautiful, newly enlarged parking lot, under the heavens as we celebrate the ascension of Christ this Ascension Sunday, May 16th. Following worship will be a time of fellowship, if you would like to make a donation toward snacks or drinks, contact the Church Office.

Graduate Recognition



We want to honor all 2021 graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) with a blessing during a worship service in June. If you are graduating this year, or have a graduate to recognize, please submit their names and school graduating from, and degree if applicable to Pastor Katie or the Church Office. If they can't participate in the service, a picture can be submitted.

Repairs Update



Repair work continues in the bell tower and sanctuary. The sanctuary woodwork and fixtures have been covered with plastic for protection as the wall repairs begin. Our paint color selection has been narrowed down to a tie between 2 remaining color choices, please vote before or after service. When entering the sanctuary do so with caution.

Save the Date



Organ and Trumpet Recital scheduled for July 11th at 2pm in the sanctuary.

Consistory Minutes Available Upon Request

Reviewing the monthly consistory minutes is a great way to stay informed of the latest news, projects, and concerns of the Church. Consistory minutes are available to anyone upon request. Contact the Church Office to get your copy.



Search & Call Committee Meeting

May 10th at 5:30pm via Zoom

Soup Kitchen

May 11th from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome!

Social distancing and masks required. **Volunteers welcome!**

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

May 13th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info or the Church Office.

<https://zoom.us/join/join> -- Meeting ID 815 1055 0627 Passcode 899733.



Joys & Concerns



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](#), [Ruth Dwyer](#), [Elan Foutch](#), [Mike Heyser](#), [Jeanne France Hvidding](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Richard Lohman](#), [Mike Lorfing](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Donna Rae Seidel](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Darla Smith](#), [Thelma Summers](#), and [Robert Yeoman](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week

Happy Birthday to **Marilyn Newlin** (May 11th) and **Kelly Weicht** (May 13th). May this year of your lives be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of each of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your lives are filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial that may arise, that you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.



A Mother's Day Prayer

~ written by Christine Sine ~

God with a mother's heart,
 You gather us as your children.
 You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace.
 When we hurt, your arms enfold us.
 When we are afraid, your wings protect us.
 When we are hungry, you feed us with the bread of life.

God with a mother's heart,
 You love surrounds and supports us,
 In good times and in tough,
 In the midst of joy and pain,
 Always and everywhere.
 You will never leave nor abandon us.

God eternal and loving,
 God with a mother's heart,
 We thank you this day
 For being part of your family. Amen

SERVICE CREDITS

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