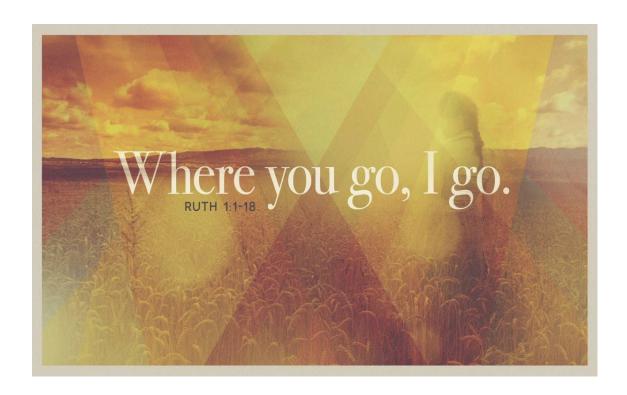
ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost № November 7th, 2021 № 11 A.M.



Meditation of the Day

"I do not at all understand the mystery of grace only that it meets us where we are, but does not leave us where it found us"

~ Anne Lamott ~



Let All Creation Praise!

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

↑An invitation to stand ↓An invitation to sit Congregational Responses are in **Bold**. → Indicates Music Selection Please silence all mobile devices.

Gathering Music

"Early American Hymn-Tune Preludes Medley"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

↑ Call to Community

Unless our GOD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. (Psalm 127)

We have come into this house, built by the Holy One, to worship the God of Creation.

Unless our GOD watches over the city, those who watch stand guard in vain.

We have come to listen to the stories of people who throughout the generations have shown us the way by their trust in the promises of God, who is always watching over us.

The widow who gives her last coin and Naomi and Ruth who are lifelong companions for each other remind us of the risks we are free to take with confidence that God is present through times of plenty and times of want, all along our journey through life.

So let us celebrate this gathering which can bind us together. Give thanks that we are no longer strangers with God's people here or throughout the nations. Let us worship God!

↓Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

Again and again, you call us to care for widows and orphans, to advocate for those in prison, to welcome the strangers.

O God, we hear your call, but all around us we hear the cry that there is not enough for all, and that some are undeserving.

Again and again, you call us to love you with our whole heart, understanding, and strength; such love demands that we seek justice for those who are oppressed, poor, and forgotten.

O God, we hear your call, but all around us are competing calls of worldly loyalties, political parties, and public acclaim.

Again and again, you urge us to seek you first. We long to trust the path of love for you and our neighbors as ourselves.

Yet we fear that our "land of milk and honey" has become a land of moral famine and economic hardship, and we wonder at times if you have abandoned us.

Again and again you urge us not to lean on our own understanding but in all our ways to acknowledge you,

and yet we are often distracted by the clamor of fear dressed up as reason.

As we prepare our hearts and minds in these days, you remind us to follow you so that it may go well for us, our neighbors, our nation, and our world.

Yet too often we forget to observe your statutes of compassion and your ordinances of justice.

Words of Blessing

~silence is kept~

Meditative Interlude

"America the Beautiful"

Children's Time

(Children are Dismissed for Children's Church)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD
The Holy Scriptures

Hebrew Lesson Ruth 1:1-18 (NRSV)
Lector: Rich Owens

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain

from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.' Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!'

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 12:38-44 (NRSV) Rev. Katie Penick

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

The Message by Rev. Katie Penick

Wherever You Go

Contemplative Interlude[↑]

"Not Alone for Mighty Empire"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Stewardship Moment

Carol Mooers

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you!

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

Let us give thanks to God who gathers us together:

To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise!

God, your invitation to come to the Table is but a glimpse of the love you extend to us every day. You are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, speaking words of praise to you:

Holy, Holy One. God of justice and love. Heaven and earth are full of your wonder. Hosanna, among us!

Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled.

And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

The Story

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On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

The Blessing

In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was born among us. Christ was killed among us. Christ rises again among us.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. Awaken our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated.

In collective longing for a taste of your Beloved Community on earth, we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

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.

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so. Amen.

Sending Forth

Prelude to Service

"Ashoran Farewell"

*Prelude to Service is in tribute to all veterans, please remain seated while tribute plays or if exiting before tribute is over, please exit the sanctuary quietly.





CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of November 7th



Mask Policy

Not everyone is vaccinated, let us show our love for ALL of our neighbors by wearing our face masks at all times inside the Church, and by practicing social distancing when interacting with one another. #RootedInLove



Sock Drive



Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting socks for school children to be given to students supported by our Micah's Backpack outreach program. Bring your sock donations with you to church as you are able. The children will appreciate them!

40 Days of Prayer

Week six of 40 Days of Prayer begins tomorrow. Please join us in prayer together with the Catoctin Association praying for one another. This prayer journey is a great opportunity to remember that we belong to an entire network of churches, an association, within the Catoctin region, and to practice of our covenantal responsibility to love and support one another in mission and Word. Daily posts at www.facebook.com/CatoctinAssociation and weekly posts on our Facebook event page at www.facebook.com/events/259277925659629.

Fall Meeting of the Catoctin Association



The 40th day of the 40 Days of Prayer concludes with the Fall Association Meeting of the Catoctin Association which will be hosted here at Zion on November 20th from 9am-noon. The event is free and open to all Zion participants to attend. More information is available at www.zionreformed.church/cafallmtg. Register online or let the Church Office know you want to attend and we can register you.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held December 5th after worship to approve our budget for 2022, elect new Consistory members, vote on proposal to change worship time to 11am year-round, and other business-related items of the church. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important meeting so your voice can be heard in helping plan our future.



Remembrance Sunday



Remembrance Sunday will be Nov 21st as we celebrate the lives of loved ones that passed between Nov 2020 to Nov 1st of this year. Please submit name, DOB, DOD, picture (if available) and obituary link (if available) by Nov 15th of anyone that you would like to honor this solemn day. In lieu of All Saint's Day at the beginning of Nov, we will be remembering our loved ones on Totenfest Sunday, the German-Reformed day of remembrance.

Joys & Concerns

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to **Jeannette Rinehart** (Nov 8th), **Margaret Munroe** (Nov 11th), **Jane Hershey** (Nov 13th), **Curtis Nilson** (Nov 13th), **Bill Brewer** (Nov 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 is 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.

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: Beanie, Brenda, Holly Bell, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, Cisco, Kim & Bill

Cook, Sonny Crebbs, Grace Elizabeth, Beth Gross, Hockman/Smith/Jones Families, Sherry Hockman, Rev. Ann Holmes, Ann Kalinoski, Dee Krause, Lagenfelder Family, Dennis Peters & Family, Colleen Rand, David Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Daisy Schlotterbeck, Norm & Lori Schmidt, Diana Shafer, Staci Shafer, Thelma Summers, Eleanor Wible, and Robert Yeoman.

*Prayer Requests remain active on the prayer list for 4-weeks and will be removed at that time unless renewed or requested to remain on the list long-term.

Lector Ministry



Lector this week is **Rich Owens**. Next week's scheduled lector is **Amber Nilson**.

*If unable to serve as lector for your designated week, please let Michael know by the Wednesday prior to your scheduled date at connectionssixeight@gmail.com or 240.203.0854.



Consistory Budget Meeting – Nov 8th at 6:30pm and 7pm (Burhans Room/Hybrid). 6:30pm to vote on 2022 salaries and 7pm to vote on 2022 budget.

Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry – Nov 9th from 5pm-6:30pm in the basement Fellowship Hall. More Info at www.facebook.com/events/344211243835048

Happy Veteran's Day – Nov 11th.

Staff Meeting – Nov 11th at 11am (Burhans Room).

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club – Nov 11th at 4:30pm via Zoom. https://zoom.us/join/join -- Meeting ID 815 1055 0627 Passcode 899733.

*40 Days of Prayer continues through November 20th



Money Follows Values by Rev. Mary W. Nelson

We put our money behind the things we value. We don't say that enough, and I don't understand why. We put our money behind the things we value. And what we value more, we're willing to spend more to support. This is why my pledge to my local church is my largest financial gift. For my household budget, I have selected four organizations that are important to me, to whom I make a significant and intentional gift each year: my local UCC congregation, the UCC seminary where I am a trustee, a UCC summer camp, and my undergraduate school (also UCC, incidentally). Other groups get a small, unplanned gift—a friend running a 5k for charity, a kiddo selling something for their scout troop, or the symphony whose concerts I attend.

My local church is the recipient of my largest financial gift because it's the most important. I know that my pledge is likely to be more impactful to my church and the community we serve than the smaller gifts I give to other organizations with larger budgets. I also know that a significant financial gift to my local church will impact other settings of the United Church of Christ when the church passes on my generosity (pooled with others' contributions) to the Conference and National settings of the UCC. I value the work of my local church and the work of the wider church as well. Even more reason to give them more!

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
16,000	1,333	27	40	53	67	133
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	62	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.





Catoctin Association 40 Days of Prayer – Week 6

Day 1 - November 8th: Christ Reformed UCC, Cavetown, MD

We pray with Christ Reformed UCC:

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will our help come? Our help comes from the maker of heaven and earth! Come, Creator of the mountain heights that enfold your people of faith in Cavetown. Grace the congregation of Christ Reformed Church with patience and discernment as they seek settled clergy leadership. Fill them with Wisdom from on High as they seek vision for ministry going forward. Inspire them toward enthusiasm toward worshipping you with joyful abandon and toward loving service to others in Christ's name. Amen.

Explore Christ Reformed UCC at www.crucccavetown.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CRUCCCavetown-371421202889728.

Day 2 - November 9th: Church of the Holy Trinity UCC, Hagerstown, MD

We pray with Church of the Holy Trinity UCC:

God of Love - we give you thanks for the Church of the Holy Trinity UCC who feel your presence with them as they ponder the future of their congregation. Change is difficult, but change is so often a blessing. With rejoicing we also pray for all the churches in the Catoctin Association, the Central Atlantic Conference, the UCC, and beyond. How wonderful to belong to a denomination that encourages minds to change in order to grow in faith and spirit. May we all continue to love you, and our neighbors as ourselves. We pray in the name of the One who suffered to show us your love. Amen.

Explore Church of the Holy Trinity UCC at https://sites.google.com/view/chtucc-org or on Facebook at @CHTUCC.

Day 3 - November 10th: The Keep & Till, Westminster, MD

We pray with The Keep & Till:

Creator, the rows are hard to hoe, but no one ever begrudged the abundance of the harvest. Bless The Keep & Till in their work and in their rest, in their contemplation and in their action, in their fasting and their feasting. Amen.

Explore The Keep & Till at www.thekeepandtill.org or on Facebook at @TheKeepAndTill.



Catoctin Association 40 Days of Prayer – Week 6

Day 4 - November 11th: Trinity UCC, Manchester, MD

We pray with Trinity UCC:

Holy and wondrous God, You created all of the uniqueness of humankind in your glorious image and breathed into them the breath of life. In this month of gratitude, we thank you for the members of the Trinity UCC community past and present, including the service members whose many and varied sacrifices we honor this day. As we look toward their future, we ask you to walk beside them. Help them to live into the values that will create the vibrant, diverse community you have called them to be. Make them instruments of your peace, who will live in hope, and act in love. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

Explore Trinity UCC at www.trinityuccmanchester.org or on Facebook at @ManchesterUCC.

Day 5 - November 12th: Christ's Reformed UCC, Hagerstown, MD

We pray with Christ's Reformed UCC:

Holy Spirit, we trust in the provision and direction you provide for your people. We are grateful that you would call us to Kingdom work. We long to do the things and be the people you have made us to be. Please provide Christ's Reformed Church in Hagerstown with the direction we long to find. Mold us and make us into a servant's heart showing others your love as you pitch a tent among us. We have had struggle after struggle this year and for now, please led us to the still waters, restore our soul, and help us, dear God we pray. Let it be so. Amen.

Explore Christ's Reformed UCC at http://crcucc.org or on Facebook at @ChristsReformedUCC.

Day 6 - November 13th: Zion Reformed UCC, Hagerstown, MD

We pray with Zion Reformed UCC:

God, O Source of all Blessings, as Zion Reformed UCC enters into the cool and crisp days of autumn, we are so thankful for your presence in their lives. We are grateful for the gift of food, and the moments when they share their food with others in your name; For the blessing of shelter, and the challenge before them to care for those who seek a home. You call us to provide welcome and show the presence of Christ in the lives of our brothers and sisters. You have given Zion Church so much, Holy God, and you expect much of us in return. Help them to accept your blessings and your challenges with gratitude, and may they find that, through your grace, blessings become challenges and challenges become blessings. Amen.

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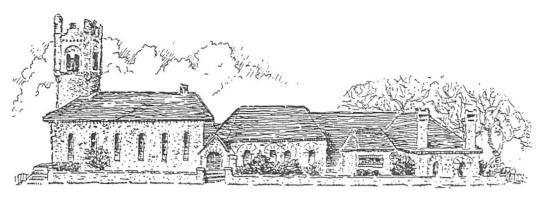
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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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