

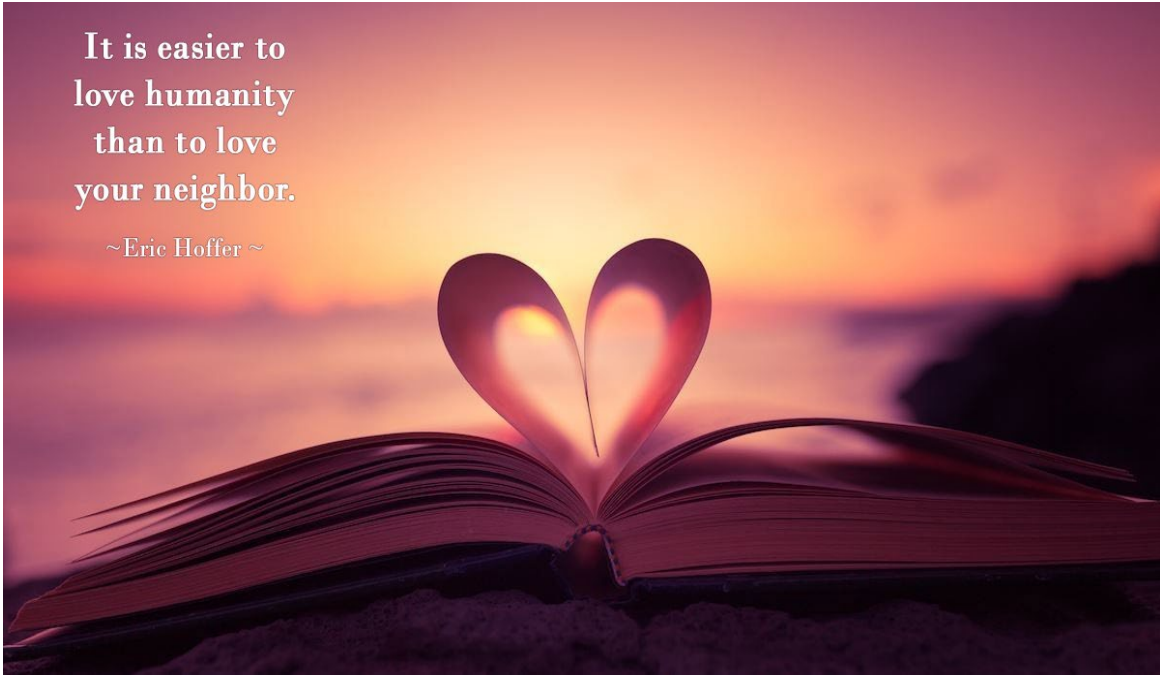
ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ November 14th, 2021 ☩ 11 A.M.

It is easier to
love humanity
than to love
your neighbor.

~Eric Hoffer~



—
Meditation of the Day

*"It is easier to love humanity
than to love your neighbor."*

~ Eric Hoffer ~

—
WORSHIP **G**UIDE

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✦

"Prelude and Fugue in E-Minor"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"Fanfare for the Common Man"

↑ Call to Community

God has gathered us to this place,

where we hear those stories, which show us what the kingdom of God is like.

God summons us to this place,

where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation.

God will send us from this place,

to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.

↓ Litany of Covenant Renewal

Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices: left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no? Some choices are simple, and some are very complex, but one choice informs all the others: Who will be our God? Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

Who has been with us from before the beginning, bringing us into existence? Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way? Who has pointed us toward the path and posted the signs we need to find our way? Who has been at our side when the road has been smooth and gently curving? Who has kept with us through hairpin turns and construction zones and potholes and detours? Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course and seek the comfort of eternity?

Only One. The One and Only.

Holy One. The One and Holy.

Will you choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us?

Count us in.

Will you choose this day to place your whole trust in the One who is trustworthy?

Count us in.

Will you choose this day to commit your talents and your resources to the One who first endowed them?

Count us in.

Will you choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

Count us in.

Let us pray together:

We devote ourselves to you by renewing the covenant—the promise you made to humanity so long ago, --because you are our God, we will be your people. Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment and our love so that we may graciously uphold our side of the deal. Help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings throughout our journey. Keep us in your care. Amen.

Words of Blessing

~silence is kept~

Meditative Interlude[✦]

"Because I Have Been Given Much"

*Due to the special format of our service focusing on prayer,
there will be no Children's Moment or Children's Church
so that you may pray together as a family unit.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD
The Holy Scriptures

Hebrew Lesson

Micah 6:6-8 (NRSV)
Rev. Amber Nilson

'With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Epistle Lesson[✦]

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 (NRSV)
Rev. Katie Penick

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Beloved, pray for us.

Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.?

The Message by Rev. Katie Penick

Prayer Stations

Do Justice Prayer Station: We are the church! We are called to act justly! God created you to be special and gave you unique gifts. How is God calling you to love, respond and participate in our community and in our world? What passions and concerns tug at your heart? How do you envision Zion connecting to the community and the World?

Write your visions on a piece of paper and tape on the tree of life. Take a moment to prayerfully ask God to bring awareness to Zion to act justly.

Love Kindness Prayer Station: We are the church! We are called to love kindness! God created you to be special and gave you unique gifts. How is God calling you to love, respond and participate in our community and in our world?

Take a paper heart and write or draw how God is using you to bring love and kindness into our community and our world. Put the paper into the tree of life and remember that we are connected in love as siblings in Christ. Light a candle on the altar as a reminder that we are the light of the world.

Write your visions on a piece of paper and tape on the tree of life. Take a moment to prayerfully ask God to bring awareness to Zion to act justly.

Mandala Prayer Station: *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Mandala means "circle." A Mandala represents wholeness and reminds us that our relationship to God extends beyond and within our bodies and minds. Jesus calls us to always rejoice, pray and give thanks. The Mandala reminds us life is never-ending, just as our relationship with God and one another never ends. Traditionally, Mandalas are used for meditation. May this Mandala reveal to us, Zion Church, what we should do to grow in faith.

Take a moment to pray for our congregation and your own role here. Color part of the Mandala and leave it for others to complete.

May our separate colors blend together just as separate gifts make up the Body of Christ.

Video Reflection ✨

"Our Roots, Our Mission, Our Vision"
**Music: "Here I Am Lord"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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 Story

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 ✧

Sending Forth

Prelude to Service ✧

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

GO FORTH IN PEACE AND SERVE IN LOVE!





CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of November 14th



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*



Outreach Team Meeting After Church Today

The newly formed Community Outreach Team will meet after church today. If you are on this exciting new team please meet in the Burhans Room after church for our inaugural meeting. The Micah's Backpack team will meet next Sunday after church.

Sock Drive



Throughout the month of November, the Service Workers 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

The final week of our 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.



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 this Saturday, 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/cfallmtg. Register online or let the Church Office know you want to attend and we can register you. Registration deadline is today, Nov 14th.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held **December 12th** instead of December 5th as previously announced. This business meeting will be 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. 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 tomorrow, Nov 15th, of anyone that you would like to honor on this day of remembrance. 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 **Betty Patterson** (Nov 16th), **Kim Cook** (Nov 18th), **Byron Stay** (Nov 20th). Happy Anniversary to **Gerry and Lisa Saum** (Nov 17th). 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](#), [Dot Glasscock](#), [Beth Gross](#), [Hockman/Smith/Jones Families](#), [Sherry Hockman](#), [Rev. Ann Holmes](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Dee Krause](#), [Lagenfelder Family](#), [Minnich 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 **Amber Nilson**. Next week's scheduled lector is **Barb Hendershot**.

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



Newsletter Deadline – Noon, Nov 15th

6:30pm to vote on 2022 salaries and 7pm to vote on 2022 budget.

Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry – Nov 16th from 5pm-6:30pm in the basement Fellowship Hall.

More Info at www.facebook.com/events/344211243835048

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club – Nov 18th at 4:30pm via Zoom.
<https://zoom.us/join/join> -- Meeting ID **815 1055 0627** Passcode **899733**.

Transgender Day of Remembrance – Nov 20th

Hagerstown Vigil on the square, Nov 19th at 6:30pm

Catoctin Association Fall Meeting @ Zion – Nov 20th at 9am

**40 Days of Prayer continues through November 20th*



Catoctin Association 40 Days of Prayer – Week 7

Day 1 – November 15th: Faith UCC, Frederick, MD

We pray with Faith UCC:

Holy and just God, we thank you for the great gift of Faith UCC and all the people who have been touched by your grace there. May their worship be genuine and sincere; may their ministries lift up people in the name of Christ. May they never forget that they are saved by your grace alone. We remember those who are active there in various ministries and roles, giving of their time, talent, and treasure. May they continue to dream dreams, sing new songs, and be a sign of your living presence in the world, knowing that your ever-loving, ever-forgiving Spirit is with them. now and forever. Amen.

Explore Faith UCC at <https://faithuccfrederick.org>
or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/faith.ucc.5>.

Day 2 – November 16th: Saint James UCC, Lovettsville, VA

We pray with Saint James UCC:

Almighty God, your good news is everywhere to be found. Help us to see it not only in the likely places, but in the places that we are likely to overlook. We pray this day for the congregation of St. James UCC in Lovettsville. The oldest church in our Association, may they be blessed with new vision for themselves and their mission. May they continue to be a witness for justice and peace in a world fraught with injustice and division. Bless all of us with a sense of purpose that is greater than our own and that rests securely in you. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Explore Saint James UCC at <http://stjamesucc-love.org>
or on Facebook at [@stjamesucclovettsville](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesucclovettsville).

Day 3 – November 17th: Grace UCC, Taneytown, MD

We pray with Grace UCC:

Dear Lord, we pray that you may continue to send your blessings for Grace UCC in Taneytown, MD. We pray for your guidance and blessing for the people and the ministries of Grace United Learning Center, Lay Life and Work Committee, The Son Shine Committee, Carpenter's Table, their Sunday school/Children's Church, and The Men's Group. Bless the outside groups that use their facility. Help the AA members remove the demons from their lives and relieve them of the burden of addiction. Assist the 4H leaders to nurture the young and make those in attendance strong dependable leaders in the future by using the 4H principles– Head, Heart, Hand and Health. Help them and the pastors, lay leaders and members of the churches of the Catoctin Association that we may always be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, in whose name we serve and pray. Amen.

Explore Grace UCC on Facebook at [@graceucctaneytown](https://www.facebook.com/graceucctaneytown).



Catoctin Association 40 Days of Prayer – Week 7

Day 4 – November 18th: Saint John’s UCC, Sabillasville, MD

We pray with Saint John’s UCC:

Nurturing God, we call upon you to bless your people at St. John’s, Sabillasville. May your Holy Spirit blow through their doors and windows, enlivening them for the work of your heart. Sing to them a new song that challenges and emboldens them. Look after their congregation and hold near those who need you most. Let them delight in you and one another, giving thanks for the multitude of miracles that occur around us each day. Give them courage and strength for the journey. Amen.

Explore Saint John’s UCC on Facebook at [@StJohnsSabillasville](#).

Day 5 – November 19th: Connections 6:8 UCC, Hagerstown, MD

We pray with Connections 6:8 UCC:

We pray, Eternal God, that Connections 6:8 UCC always remain persistent--committed to sharing your good news of inclusion, hope, and grace for all. May they remain ever prayerful, listening for your voice, welcoming the stranger in their midst as Christ Jesus so lovingly exemplified. Help them to be your beacon of inclusion, hope, and love always. We recognize with them that without unity, we have no commUNITY, so we pray with and for all of our Catoctin Association siblings that we unite together as one. Fill each of us with a desire to support and encourage one another in love and service to you. May your peace be in each of our hearts, your grace in our words, your love in our hands and your joy in our souls, Amen.

*Explore Connections 6:8 UCC at <https://www.connections68.org>.
or on Facebook at [@Connections68](#).*

Day 6 – November 20th: Catoctin Association of the UCC

We pray with and for the Catoctin Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ:

Creator God, through these 40 days we have prayed for each of our congregations, your faithful people gathered in a diversity of places. For all of our diversity, for all of our successes and our struggles, for all of our dreams made real and dreams fallen short, may you yet make us one body in Christ. Amen.

*Explore the Catoctin Association at <https://catoctinucc.org>
or on Facebook at [@CatoctinAssociation](#).*



Planted by Streams of Water by Rev. Alex Shea Will

The Psalms often compare us to animals in search of water. In the 23rd, we are the sheep who drink from calm waters. In the 42nd, we are the deer, longing for God as the deer longs for the stream. But in the 1st Psalm, something is different. We are not the animals passing from stream to stream. We are the tree, fixed in the riverside. Our roots running deep and wide, nourished by the waters of God’s mercy and love, and the collective ecosystem. While I love the beauty of the 23rd and 42nd Psalms, the imagery of the 1st Psalm is the most moving because it is the image of life in Christian community. We do not come and go from the stream, taking only what we need, when we need it. Our roots are firmly planted and growing deeper and stronger by the day. We not only take from the ecosystem, but we also contribute to it. We’re committed to this spot, this ecosystem - no matter the changing of the seasons. In a culture where it is easy to pick up and look for a new stream, covenant calls us to plant something lasting. My financial generosity to the church is one way I declare that I am not merely passing by; I’m planting roots. It’s how I proclaim that I am invest- ed in the flourishing of our riverside. It’s how I communicate that my thriving depends on our thriving.

Let us pray: Gracious God, inspire my generosity so that my roots grow deeper and stronger. Amen.

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.

SERVICE CREDITS

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Gathering Music: *"Prelude and Fugue in E-Minor" (BWV 548)* – Composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (approx. 1812-1814), ©Public Domain. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved.
*Source(s): Schirmer's Library of Musical Classics and [IMSLP](http://imslp.org) (imslp.org).

Prelude to Worship: *"Fanfare for the Common Man"* – Arrangement ©2001 by Boosey & Hawkes Publishers Ltd. Based on the original composition by Aaron Copland, ©1944 by Aaron Copland. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpet) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Music Notes](http://musicnotes.com) (musicnotes.com) and [Boosey & Hawkes](http://boosey.com) (boosey.com).

Meditative Interlude: *"Because I Have Been Given Much"*– Tune, *"Thy Great Bounty"* by Blanche Douglas Byles (1925), ©Used by Permission of the Composer. Lyrics by Noll Crowell (1877-1969), ©Reid Crowell. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Gospel Segue: *"And Can It Be?"*– Tune, *"Sagina"* by Thomas Campbell (1825), ©Public Domain. Lyrics, *"And Can It Be That I Should Gain"* by Charles Wesley (1738), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. CCLI #25280 *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Prayer Station Music: *"Rêverie"* – Tune by Claude Debussy (1890), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLI #1755968. *Source(s): [IMSLP](http://imslp.org) (imslp.org).

Video Reflection Music: *"Here I Am, Lord"* – Tune by Daniel L. Schutte (1981, 1983), ©1981 by OCP Publications. Lyrics by Daniel L. Schutte (1981), ©1981 by OCP Publications. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Communion Music:

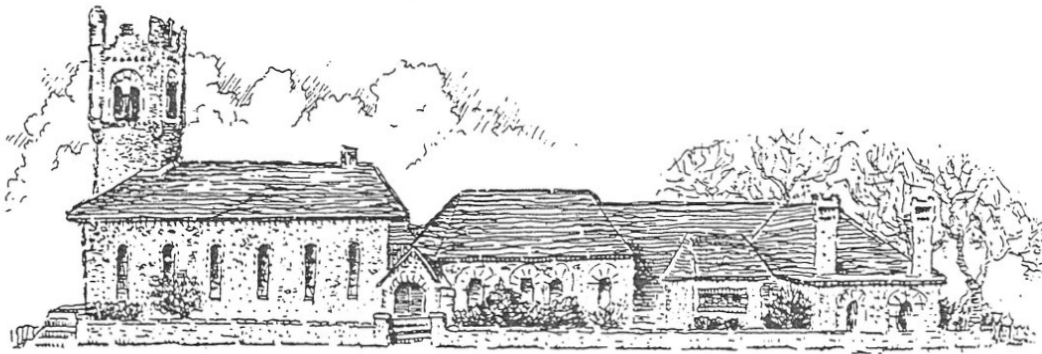
"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" – Tune, *"St. George's Windsor"* by George J. Elvey (1856), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Henry Alford (1844), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLI #50200. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

"Spirit of God" – Tune, *"Morecambe"* by Frederick C. Atkinson (1870), ©Public Domain. Lyrics, *"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"* by George Croly (1854), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLI # 2083. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Prelude to Service: *"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"* – Arranged by Richard Elliott, ©2014 by Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation. Based on the tune, *"Pentecost,"* a traditional African-American spiritual, ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): [Lorenz Corporation](http://Lorenz.com) (Lorenz.com).

Scripture Lessons: Unless otherwise noted all scriptures are from the [New Revised Standard Version](http://NewRevisedStandardVersion.com) of the Holy Bible, ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved, used with permission.

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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