

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

August 30, 2020 10:30 a.m.

Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship. We will return to in-person worship in the sanctuary next Sunday with Holy Communion. These services will be shorter in length as recommended by health professionals to avoid lengthy exposure which increases virus risk factors. We will continue to have lectors and musicians as part of the service and continue to live stream and post worship videos each week. You can find worship materials under the "Pastor's Corner" tab on our website www.zionsucc.org. Many thanks to Allen Morrill, Leslie Gaul, and Lance Callahan for helping with the livestream equipment and Lori and all the volunteers who offer their gifts of speech and music.

Please send Pastor June any prayer requests by email, text, phone, or messenger. And share any feedback or comment on worship in the sanctuary, the live stream, or video posting. This is meant to be meaningful for you so we appreciate knowing what works and what we could do differently.

As always, each of you is in our prayers. Physical distancing does not mean we are distant from one another in heart and spirit. And we know that our Creator, Redeemer, and Loving Spirit is present with us always and in every moment. For all this we give thanks.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

THE PRELUDE

"Hymn to our Protector"

Donna J. Krieger

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Menold, Lector

Leader: God, we praise you! We gather together to worship you.
People: To remember the goodness and unfailing love you have shown toward us.
 Leader: Time after time, you have come to our rescue.
People: Your love has sustained us through good times and bad.
 Leader: Even when we turned our back on you, you didn't abandon us,
People: but waited patiently for us to return, ready to welcome us with open arms.
 Leader: Because we have known your love in the past, we look to the days ahead without fear.
People: No matter how uncertain the future may seem, we will continue to trust in your unfailing love.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN "Now is the Time Approaching" (bulletin page 5)

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived up to the example set by your son, Jesus Christ. We confess how difficult it is to truly love the people around us. Forgive us; teach us to whole-heartedly love one another. We confess how often we act out of our own self-interest. Forgive us; teach us to live with generosity and compassion. We confess how easy it is to do what we know is wrong. Forgive us; teach us to turn away from what is wrong and pursue what is right. We confess that we find it very difficult to love our enemies: to pray for their well-being, to act in their best interests, to leave thoughts of vengeance behind. Forgive us; teach us to love even those who hurt or offend us. In your mercy, hear now our silent confessions....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE "God Will Take Care of You"
**Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
 Beneath God's wings of love abide, God will take care of you.
 God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
 God will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers, our friends and neighbors, as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbor as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and petitions on behalf of the church and the world. Today we hold in prayer, Charlie and Millie Owen, Linda Allison, Sam and Elaine Gano, Linda Schehl, Fred Graham, Linda Henry, Vikki Young, Lynn Marlowe, Gabriel Sobina, Frank Lawrence and Peg Russell. We also pray for those recovering from the *derecho* in Iowa and those in the west who are trying to cope with extreme temperatures and wildfires I invite you to name other joys and concerns in the space provided in the prayer or in chat so we can all offer our prayers. Please feel free during the week to let me know if there are others you would like added to the prayer list.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.
Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Not Too Far From Here" Lacy Ty Kelly/Siler Steven Rimmon
Ruth Herrick, soloist

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 12:9-21 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by

doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON *Christian Character*

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

We give our offerings to God—our treasure, our gifts, our labor. And God receives them all with graciousness. You may mail or drop off your offering in the office, use a bank bill pay service or use the “give” button on the website. Thank you for your continued support of Zion’s ministries. Let us offer the doxology in response to the gifts we receive and return.

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above you heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN “Make Me a Blessing” (bulletin page 6)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE Postlude on “LaMorisque” Tielman Susato; arr. by Austin North

Our worship is ended and our service begins.

MEDITATION - William Penn

I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.

Now Is the Time Approaching

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*Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.**Jer. 33:14-16; Isa. 11:6-9; 61:11*

1 Now is the time ap - proach - ing, by proph - ets long fore - told,
 2 Let all that now di - vides us re - move and pass a - way,
 3 O long - ex - pect - ed dawn - ing, come with your cheer - ing ray!

when all shall dwell to - geth - er, se - cure and man - i - fold.
 like mists of ear - ly morn - ing be - fore the blaze of day.
 Yet shall the prom - ise beck - on and lead us not a - stray.

Let war be learned no long - er, let strife and tu - mult cease,
 Let all that now u - nites us more sweet and last - ing prove,
 O sweet an - tic - i - pa - tion! It cheers the watch - ers on

all earth a bless - ed gar - den that God shall tend in peace.
 a clos - er bond of un - ion, in bless - ed lands of love.
 to pray, and hope, and la - bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jane Laurie Borthwick's text titled "Anticipation of Heaven" was published in her Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours (1859). George J. Webb, American organist and music publisher, originally wrote this music for a secular song, "Tis dawn, the lark is singing."

Tune: WEBB 7.6.7.6.D.
 George J. Webb, 1837

Make Me a Blessing

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing . . .

— Ezekiel 34:26

SCHULER

George S. Schuler

Ira B. Wilson

1 Out in the high-ways and by-ways of life, Man-y are wea-ry and sad;
 2 Tell the sweet sto-ry of Christ and His love, Tell of His power to for - give;
 3 Give as 'twas giv-en to you in your need, Love as the Mas-ter loved you;

1 Car - ry the sun-shine where dark-ness is rife, Mak - ing the sor-row-ing glad.
 2 Oth-ers will trust Him if on - ly you prove True, ev - ery mo-ment you live.
 3 Be to the help-less a help-er in-deed, Un - to your mis-sion be true.

Make me a bless - ing, Make me a bless - ing — Out of my

life May Je - sus shine; Make me a bless - ing, O Sav - ior,

I pray, Make me a bless - ing to some - one to - day.