

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries
September 20, 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 all those joining us on-line and those in the sanctuary. It is good to gather as the body of Christ. Many thanks to Allen Morrill and Leslie Gaul, for helping with the livestream equipment. See page 7 for more announcements.

The Altar flowers are placed in memory of Richard Houpt, by Pat Houpt.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Ida Menold, Lector

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

PRELUDE

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
(CCLI# 7021294)

arr. by Mark Hayes

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Philippians 1:27 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

GATHERING SONG "Give Thanks" (CCLI #20285) (bulletin page 5)

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 105)

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

People: Sing to our LORD, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

People: Seek the strength of the LORD; seek the LORD's presence continually.

Leader: O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones,

People: Remember the wonderful works God has done, all the miracles and the judgments God uttered.

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creating, Redeeming, Sustaining God—so often we search for comfort and resist your challenge to see others. We fill ourselves with the goodness of our gardens and hunger for the bread that would satisfy our spirits. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the abundant life you offer. Forgive us our lack of trust. Forgive us our unfaithfulness. Teach us to turn again to you who provides us with every good thing according to your loving purposes. Hear now our silent prayers....

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 AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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, Sam and Elaine Gano, Myrna Snyder, Dan Callahan, Nancy Redfoot, Lynn Marlowe, Gabriel Sobina, and Frank Lawrence. 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. Let us pray.

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

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 20:1-16 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, **12** saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

SERMON

Divine Equations

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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.

CLOSING HYMN “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (CCLI #223549)
(bulletin page 6)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE “Prelude in C Minor” J. S. Bach

Our worship is ended and our service begins.

MEDITATION: Rick Riordan
*Fairness does not mean everyone gets the same.
Fairness means everyone gets what they need.*

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,

Give thanks be-cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich be - cause of what the Lord has done for us."

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!

GOD

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- JR/SR High Sunday School class meets in the Youth Center at 9:15.
 - Finance and Consistory will meet Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30 and 7:00.
 - RALLY DAY is October 11. The Elementary and Adult Sunday School classes will begin.
 - Third Graders will receive their Bibles during worship on October 11.
 - The Ministry of Service and Missions invites all who are interested to make fleece tie blankets on Sunday, October 8. Bring a sack lunch and material will be provided. The blankets will be given to AWARE and The Good Shepherd Center.
 - Pastor June will be on vacation from November 2nd through 18th.
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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's is looking for volunteers to assist with management of all outside visits. Volunteers must be willing to commit to at least one, two-hour time slot per week.

Some of the duties include:

- Educate family members of the Visitation Guidelines (social distancing, wearing masks and no personal touching)
- Accompany or direct visitors to the designated outside visiting location.
- Monitor the location to make sure guidelines are being followed.
- Clean/sanitize the visitation area at the conclusion of each visit.

To volunteer, visit St. Paul's website at www.stpauls1867.org and click "join Our Team", or call 724-588-9613 ext. 1135 and speak to Rose Hoffman.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

The offering will be collected on October 4. Please prayerfully consider a gift to NIN.