

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries
September 27, 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 Graul, for helping with the livestream equipment. See page 8 for more announcements.

The Altar flowers are placed in memory of our loved ones, by Ron and Betty Mink and Family.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Chris Stockner, 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 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" arr. by Larry Shackley

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Philippians 2:3-4 (NRSV)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

GATHERING SONG "Come Into His Presence" (CCLI #18819) (bulletin page 5)

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 25)

Leader: We lift up our souls to you, Holy God.

People: We trust the Lord with our past, present, and future.

Leader: Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways.

People: Guide our every move, Holy One, that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy.

Leader: Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.

People: Together, let us worship God!

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, in penitence we come to worship you this day, seeking your blessing and mercy. We seek your forgiveness, because in the past, you have always blessed and renewed us, when we came seeking forgiveness. It is with real sorrow in our hearts that we need to ask you to teach us again your ways of truth. We know we should always remember what is your truth, what are your ways of life and loving; but we ask again for you to guide and direct the path of our lives. Hear our humble 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, 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

"Make Me A Servant" (CCLI #33131)

Kelly Willard

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 21:23-32 New International Version (NIV)

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

SERMON

A Change of Heart

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 “O Jesus, I Have Promised” (CCLI #2399773) (bulletin page 6)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE “Fugue in Classic Style” Nicolas Miaskovsky

Our worship is ended and our service begins.

MEDITATION: Sukhraj S. Dhillon (university professor and author)
Your beliefs don't make you a better person, your behavior does.

Come in - to His pres-ence with thanks - giv-ing in your heart and give Him

praise, and give Him praise; Come in - to His pres-ence with thanks -

giv-ing in your heart, your voic - es raise, your voic - es raise.

Give glo - ry and hon - or and pow - er un - to

Him, Je - sus, the name a - bove all names.

DISCIPLESHIP

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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*John E. Bode, 1868; alt.**Luke 9:57; John 14:1-4*

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend:
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;

I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!
 O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

John Ernest Bode wrote these words when his daughter and two sons were confirmed. Although the Oxford scholar and rector wrote books of hymns, this is the only one to achieve lasting fame.

Tune: ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.

A. H. Mann, 1883

Alternate tune: MUNICH

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

“Unleashing the magnificent potential in children, families and neighborhoods that leads to a just community for all.”

Neighborhood Houses of St. Louis, MO serves a large need within the community. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% earning less than \$20,000/year. Some simply struggle to provide basic needs for their children. In 2019, through a NIN direct service grant for \$3,000, the “Baby Essentials” program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center.

In 2020 it was reported back that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of the babies/toddlers ages six weeks to 3 years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

All children have the right to simply be children.....

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

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday and the Neighbors in Need offering will be collected. An envelope for your gift will be included in the newsletter.

Finance will meet at 6:00 on Wednesday, October 7.

Consistory will meet at 7:00 on Wednesday, October 7.

Rally Day is October 11. Elementary and Adult Sunday School classes will begin.

The JR/SR High Sunday School class continues on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Youth Center.

Third Graders will receive their Bibles on October 11 during worship.

The Ministry of Service and Missions will meet Monday, October 12 at 6:00.

The Immerse Bible Study classes continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00.

Pastor June will be on vacation from November 2nd through 18th.

The Ministry of Service and Missions invites all who are interested to make fleece tie blankets on Sunday, November 8. Bring a sack lunch and the kits will be provided.

The blankets will be given to AWARE and the Good Shepherd Center.