

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

January 31, 2021 10:30 a.m.  
Health and Human Services Sunday

*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.

The Altar flowers are placed in memory of Fred and Agnes Reimold.

We extend a special welcome to Farrah Richards, who will provide special music today!

Thank you for sharing your time and talent. Farrah is a teacher at Joseph Badger Schools and works with Lori.

See more announcements on Page 6.

**A Time of Gathering**

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Betsy Fischer, 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

Alice Calvin, Acolyte

PRELUDE

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Farrah Richards, Vocal Soloist

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Ephesians 5:15-16

*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

OPENING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (bulletin page 7)

CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalms 42 and 43)

Betsy Fischer, Lector

Leader: As the deer pants for streams of water, so we long for you, O God.

**People: We thirst for you, the living God. When can we come and stand in your presence?**

Leader: Through each day, the Lord pours out unfailing love upon us,

**People:** Through each night we sing songs, praying to the God who gives us life.

Leader: Send out your light and your truth, O God. Let them guide us to your holy mountain, to the place where you live.

**People:** Then we will go to the house of God, to God—the source of all our joy.

### A Time of Prayer

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that you exist because of the pain and evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, illness, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see your goodness in this world. Help us to know your love. Fill us with your love and well-being, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Hear now our prayers...**

#### A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

#### THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

#### A SONG OF ASSURANCE (CCLI #31803)

**Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.  
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for the family of Dave Robinson. We also hold in prayer Louise Semroc, the Brock family (Jamie, Stephanie, Alexis and Emma), and Jerry Herrick.

**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

“Amazing Grace”

Farrah Richards, Vocal Soloist

**Dwelling in the Word**

## SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 111 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

<sup>8</sup> They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

## SERMON

*Periodic Review*

## LITANY OF GRATITUDE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Leader: O God of Absolute Necessity, who reveals to us our interdependence and inherent worth. We lift up to you now all essential workers and their life-saving ministries.

**People: Let us ground ourselves in the roots of gratitude.**

Leader: For sanitation and environmental service workers, for janitors and mask-makers, who create spaces of welfare and well-being.

**People: May they too be protected and safe.**

Leader: For healthcare workers and rescue breathers, for emergency and crisis intervention teams, for veterinarians and funeral directors, who hold both life and death in their compassionate care.

**People: May they too be held and safe.**

Leader: For food service workers and farmers, for postal workers and transportation providers, who deliver sustenance and connection.

**People: May they too be nourished and safe.**

- Leader: For those working with children and older adults, for housing providers and direct service professionals, who cultivate community at every stage and experience of life.
- People: May they too be nurtured and safe.**
- Leader: For teachers and school workers, for poets, musicians, and artists, who gift the world with wisdom, beauty, and joy.
- People: May they too be inspired and safe.**
- Leader: For chaplains, spiritual directors, and therapists, for body workers, doulas, and traditional healers, who journey alongside the presence of pain as well as perseverance.
- People: May they too be companioned and safe.**
- Leader: For uncompensated caregivers, for family and friends, who lift each other up and leave no one behind, alone, or lost.
- People: May they too be supported and safe.**
- Leader: But may they be more than just supported and safe. May they flourish, and have rest. May they feel loved and not alone.
- People: Because we will show up for them, as they have shown up for us.**
- Leader: Together, let us build the Kin-dom of God: one moment, one relationship, one ministry at a time.
- People: Amen.**

#### OFFERING OUR GIFTS

In 1858, one of our UCC forebears, Pastor Louis Edward Nollau, appealed to his congregation, now known as St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in St. Louis, for money to build a home to support young children orphaned by a great cholera epidemic. Later, one member chastised Nollau, insisting the church did not have enough funds for such an ambitious project. To this, the pastor replied: “No, ... But we have the children.”

Today, Pastor Nollau’s vision, Evangelical Children’s Home, is more than 150 years old and has always evolved and adapted to meet the changing needs of children. Now referred to as “Every Child’s Hope,” ECH has more than 200 employees across Missouri, dedicated to preventing child abuse, treating emotional trauma and mental health issues, and providing critical services to 1,400 youth and children annually — in our name, as members of the United Church of Christ. Pastor Nollau’s dream — and the dream of the generous people of St. Peter’s Church — lives on.

Today as we celebrate Health and Human Services Sunday, we keep in mind the “Abolishing Medical Debt” initiative the Penn West Conference will kick off tomorrow, February 1<sup>st</sup>. This project seeks to raise \$15,000 to abolish medical debt for people in Pennsylvania. See the February newsletter for more information.

Today, as you present your offering, I invite you to do so believing that great things are possible for those who see great human need as a call to advance the love and compassion of

the church of Jesus Christ. Let us be that kind of church, as our forebears have taught us. May we give generously on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. You may drop off your offering in the office, mail your gift, 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 praise God who has preserved our health and well-being.

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                    “Be Thou My Vision” (bulletin page 8)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE                 Study XVIII - Duvernoy Op. 176

**Our worship is ended and our service begins.**

MEDITATION: Juan Martinez (from [caringbridge.org/resources](http://caringbridge.org/resources))

A firefighter and paramedic who wrote this when his 2-year-old son, Jaxson, was going through treatment for neuroblastoma.

*If I could offer advice to any family today, it would be to stick by your faith. Know that your God is with you and will take care of you all the way through.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Good Shepherd Center request for February is canned fruit. Barrels are located in the front and back lobbies of the church.

The Ministry of Service and Missions is holding a **FLEECE BLANKET WORK DAY** on Sunday, February 7 immediately after worship. Bring good scissors and a ruler, the fleece will be provided. Blankets are for The Good Shepherd Center and AWARE. You'll be home in time to watch the Superbowl!

The Ash Wednesday Communion Service will be February 17 at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary.

During Lent we will hold Worship/Bible Study in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings, February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17 and March 24.

GOD OF PROVIDENCE &amp; CARE

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 71

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre - a -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, a - bove all things so won-drous-ly reign -  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de - fend  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal -  
 ing; shel-tering you un - der his wings, and so gent - ly sus -  
 you: sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at -  
 him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va tion! Come, all who hear; now to his  
 tain - ing! Have you not seen all that is  
 tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 fore him. Let the A - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near, join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 need - ful has been sent by his gra-cious or - dain - ing?  
 might-y can do, if with his love he be - friends you.  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

PILGRIMAGE &amp; PERSEVERANCE

## Be Thou My Vision

502

1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word,  
 3 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.  
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931); versed Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)

SLANE