

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

February 28, 2021 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Lent

*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 Bill Johnston, by his loved ones.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Ruth Herrick, 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

Emily Rinella, Acolyte

PRELUDE

"Prelude on 'Picardy'"

arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Mark 8:34-37

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Thom Shuman)

Ruth Herrick, Lector

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Lent calls us to journey to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

OPENING HYMN “If You But Trust In God to Guide You” (bulletin page 5)

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you, have mercy on us and forgive us. Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption. Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises. Help us when we hesitate, and strengthen us when we are weak. Hear our prayers....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE “Create in Me a Clean Heart”
(sing straight through-do not repeat)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart. O
 God, and re-new a right spir-it with - in me.
 1 2
 Cre - Cast me not a - way from Your
 pre-sence, O Lord, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Your sal -
 va - tion, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.

WORDS: Based on Psalm 51:10-12

MUSIC: Unknown

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CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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

**I need you every hour, in faith or fear,
Temptations lose their power when you are near.
I need you, how I need you! Every hour I need you;
O bless me now, my Savior; I come to you.**

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

SPECIAL MUSIC

"What a Covenant"
Allen Morrill, soloist

Elisha A. Hoffman

SERMON

New Identity

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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.

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.**

LITURGY OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS (Based on a service written by Alexander H. Wales)
During Lent, we remember the events that led Jesus to his crucifixion. He had come into the world to bring hope and light, but at every turn there were those who sought to extinguish that light. Like the Advent Wreath and our Christmas Eve service, the circle of gathering darkness created by the candles and the crown of thorns serves as a constant reminder of the role of human sin in bringing about the crucifixion and the need for Resurrection.

RESPONSE IN SONG Savior, When in Tears and Dust (verse one only) (bulletin page 6)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE "Spanish Trumpet Joy" Francisco de Peraza; arr. by Patricia Lou Harris
 (CCLI#7060648)

MEDITATION: Rev. Dr. Dale E. Turner, Pastor, author, speaker
Dreams are renewable. No matter what our age or condition, there are still untapped possibilities within us and new beauty waiting to be born.

FAITH

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

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Georg Neumark, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Ps. 55:22

1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with
 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice

all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,
 heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure
 faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv - ing,

to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's
 will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most
 there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to

change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
 wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.
 guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

The comforting words of Psalm 55:22 inspired this beautiful hymn by Georg Neumark, who wrote both words and music. Neumark was a German poet who suffered much during the Thirty Years' War.

Tune: NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.
 Georg Neumark, 1657

ASH WEDNESDAY

Savior, When in Tears and Dust

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Robert Grant, 1815; alt.

1 Sav - ior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
 2 By your help-less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,

When re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
 By your days of sore dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
 By the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
 By the vault whose cold a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God:

Mind - ful how you suf - fered pain that God's love in us might reign—
 By the dread mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's power:
 By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice:
 O from earth to realms of light, Christ re - stored in power and might,

Help us claim what we would be, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Turn, O turn a fa - voring eye, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Lis - ten to our hum - ble cry, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Lis - ten, lis - ten to the cry of our sol - emn lit - a - ny.

Robert Grant—English lawyer, member of Parliament, advocate general, humanitarian, and author of a number of significant hymns—was born in India. He returned near the end of his life to become governor of Bombay.

Tune: SPANISH HYMN 7.7.7.D.
 Traditional melody
 Arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824