

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

March 14, 2021 10:30 a.m.
Fourth 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 Dick and Marilyn Rowland, by Teri, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. March 12 would have been their 73rd wedding anniversary.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Mike 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

Kellen Ritzert, Acolyte

PRELUDE

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee" arr. by Matt Hyzer, Trad. Amer. Spiritual
(CCLI# 5782600)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Menold, Lector

Leader: Eternal God, by your word you create and by your breath you give life.

People: We worship you with joy and thanksgiving, praising you for the fullness that your presence brings to our lives, and our life together.

Leader: Your goodness is displayed in your wonderful works for all humanity, and in your perfect love.

People: For your unending faithfulness, revealed to us in Christ Jesus, and made present to us in your Holy Spirit we praise you, Lord God.

OPENING HYMN "Lamb of God"

Unison Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29
Used by permission CCL15046

1. Your on-ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your
 2. Your gift of love they cru-ci-fied, They laughed and scorned Him as He
 3. I was so lost I should have died, But You have brought me to Your

side To walk up-on this guilt-y sod, And to be-come the Lamb of God.
 died; The hum-ble King they named a fraud, And sac-ri-ficed the Lamb of God.
 side To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the

ho-ly Lamb of God. O wash me in His pre-cious

last time rit.
 blood. 1,2. My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.
 3. Till I am just a lamb of God.

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are not worthy to be called disciples. We have promised to be faithful, but like Peter, we deny your claim on our lives when the going gets tough. We have promised to be faithful, but like Thomas, we doubt the reality of your presence in our midst. We have promised to be faithful, but like Judas, we betray you for our own ideas of what should happen in our lives and world. So we count not on our worthiness, but only on your overwhelming care. Receive our plea for forgiveness. Grant us your healing power as we offer 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)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart. O God, and re-new a right spir-it with - in me. 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." The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings for the phrase "Cre - Cast me not a - way from Your".

Cre - ate in me a clean heart. O

God, and re-new a right spir-it with - in me.

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 Journey to Calvary

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 John 3:16-21 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "My Forever Friend" Words and Music by Charlie Landsborough
Bill Henry, Baritone Soloist

SERMON *One Little Word*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Our giving expresses our firm conviction that God is with us and blesses us, no matter what. 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 7)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE “O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing” arr. by Lani Smith

MEDITATION: Rachel Held Evans

When the people of God abandoned the covenant of love and fidelity, drawn as we are by the appeal of shallow, empty pleasures, God removed every possible obstruction to the covenant by being faithful for us, by becoming like us and subjecting Himself to the very worst within us, loving us all the way to the cross and all the way out of the grave.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected today.

Lenten Services continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 on March 17 and March 24.

Through our donations to The Good Shepherd Center, they will be able to provide a special Easter meal for 350 families. We have been asked to donate **KNORR'S PASTA OR RICE SIDE DISHES**. Please bring your donations to the church by March 19.

The Preschool is offering a Mommy and Me Class on Fridays from 10:00-11:30 for 2-3 year olds and their caregivers. The class runs from April 9 through May 21. Call the church office if interested, and please feel free to share this information with your friends and family. Activities include stories, songs, finger plays, language experiences, rhythm and movement, and art and will be led by Bronwyn Frerotte. Registration forms are available in the church office.

The Heritage Days committee will be handing out Easter candy and trinkets in Riverside Park in lieu of having any Easter Egg hunts this year. Donations of candy, trinkets, money to purchase those, and also volunteers to help with the distribution of the bags are needed. Donations can be brought to the church office by March 23. If you would like to volunteer to help, please tell Leslie Graul or Julie Hills. The drive-thru distribution is April 3 from 12 pm to 2 pm.

The Chancel Choir will be singing for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday! Please join us in the sanctuary if you feel comfortable. Masks are required and pews are roped off for social distancing. The Elders will be serving Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

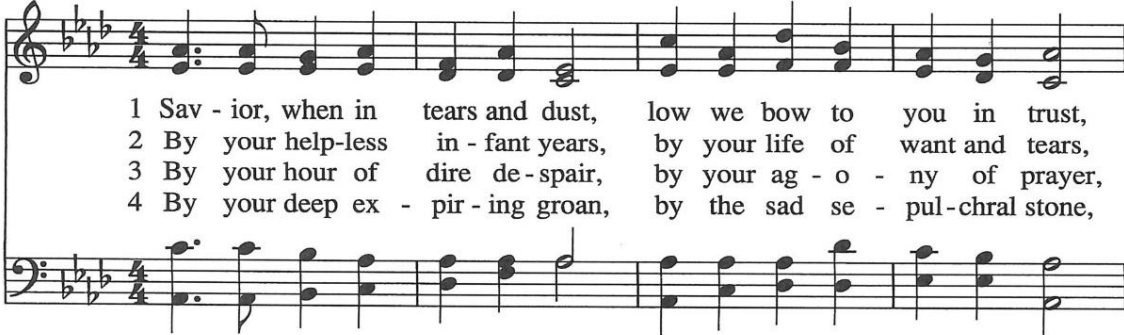
The Immerse Bible Study will continue beginning April 13 and 15. Classes will be held on both Tuesdays and Thursdays in person or via ZOOM. Please let Julie know if you would like to participate so books can be ordered.

The Knitting Group will meet on Tuesdays at 1:00 in the Anderson Lounge beginning on April 13. Anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting is welcome.....or just come for the fellowship!

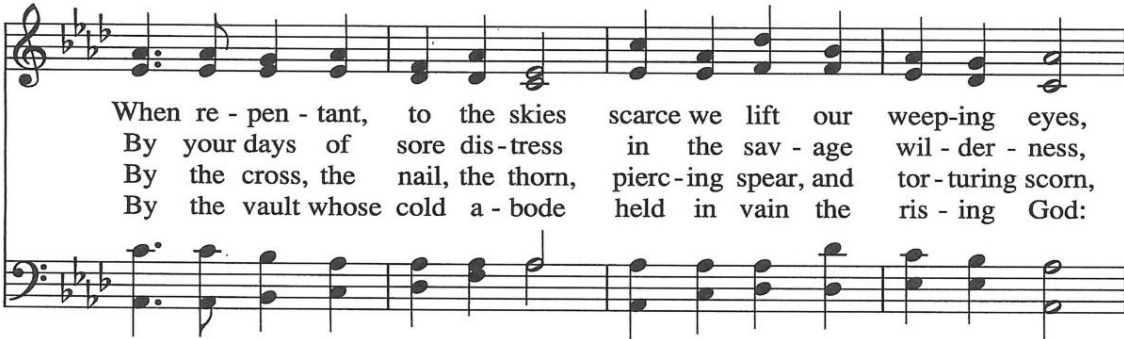
ASH WEDNESDAY

Savior, When in Tears and Dust

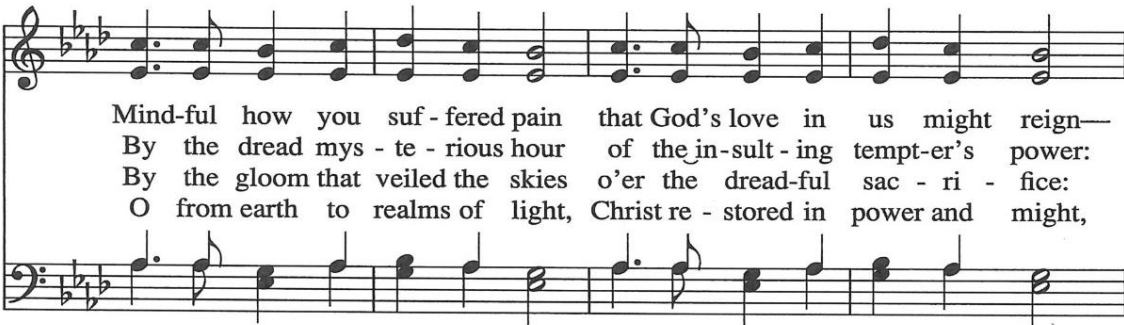
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Robert Grant, 1815; alt.


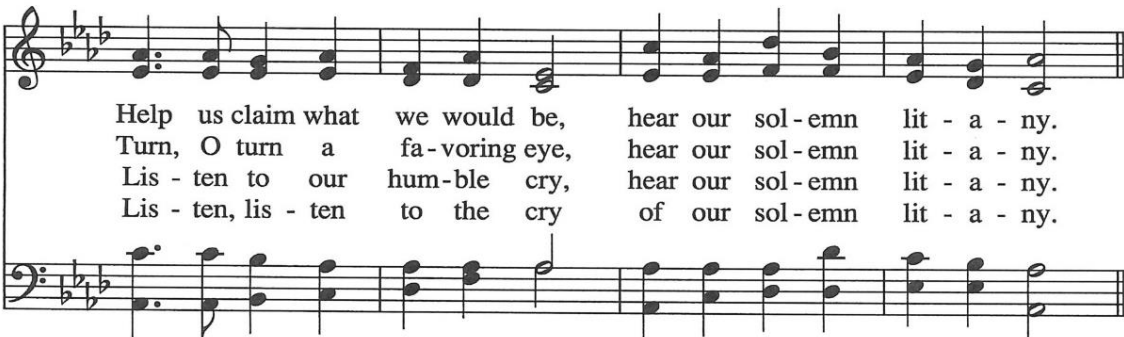
1 Sav - ior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
 2 By your help-less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



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 7.7.7.7.D.
 Traditional melody
 Arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824