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

May 16, 2021 10:30 a.m. OCWM Thank You Day

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 Edward Saal, by Marilyn and the children.

The Chancel flowers are placed in memory of Rodney Wentling, by Joan and Dallas Wentling.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION , 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

THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT Nolan Wig, Acolyte

PRELUDE "Holy, Holy, Holy" arr. by Humphrey Turner

(CCLI#4068631)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be God's people, the LORD's treasured possession.

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 1) , Lector

Leader: Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

People: God's ways are just and merciful.

Leader: Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

People: In all that they do, they prosper.

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

People: Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice.



Written at a time of anti-Methodist sentiment, this hymn was included in Charles Wesley's Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution. The tune is attributed to William Croft, composer at England's Chapel Royal and organist at Westminster Abbey.

Tune: HANOVER 10.10.11.11. Attrib. to William Croft, 1708

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, week after week we make our confessions acknowledging that the forces of evil are so very much a part of our lives. You have made us a chosen race, O God; a royal priesthood, a holy nation, your own people. But we run from your choosing, we deny our holiness, we reject our belonging. Through your abundant mercy, forgive us and remind us that all we are and all we have are yours. Hear our prayers....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE

Amazing grace how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

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 thanksgiving and petitions on behalf of the church and the world. We pray for Gabriel Sobina, Lynn Marlowe, Rachel Lang, Keith Anderson, Vikki Young, Bruce Wolff, and Pat Stearns.

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

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your spirit in this place,
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE John 17:6-19 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

CHOIR ANTHEM "You Shall Have a Song" Harriet Ziegehals (CCLI #916526)

SERMON Sanctified

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Today we celebrate our gifts to the wider church. There is a video from our Conference Minister, David Ackerman for Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) Thank You Day on our Facebook page. And we have received our certificate for our gifts to OCWM.

There are offering plates in the back of the sanctuary or you may drop off your gifts in the office, mail them, or give online through our website zionsucc.org. The ushers will bring forward the offering to be dedicated as we sing the doxology with Easter words.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication



THE BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley

house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the

THE POSTLUDE "Allegretto" Franz Joseph Haydn/Lani Smith (CCLI #4068459)

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Alternate tune: HENDON

Justin H. Knecht, 1797

MEDITATION: Mark Buchanan

Holiness is not a bid to be noticed or loved or accepted by God. Holiness, rather, is acting out and acting upon the truth that God has noticed, loved and accepted us long before we did anything to warrant that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Strengthen the Church offering will be received on May 23. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations and, in part, funds the local church mission grants. We received two grants this past year, one for the steeple project and one for the fleece blanket project. If you would like to contribute, please mark "Strengthen the Church" on your check or envelope.

A memorial service will be held for all of our members who died during COVID restrictions (since March 2020). The candlelight service will be **Friday, May 21 at 7:30** in the church parking lot. In case of rain, the service will be in the sanctuary.

The service will include an anthem by the choir and an opportunity for those in attendance to say a few words about their loved one.

There was one member omitted from the list in the newsletter. Marlene Fry died on December 21 and will be included in the memorial service.

Carol Neifert will also be included and Ken will be coming for the service. Carol died in June after a battle with metastatic breast cancer. Ken, who currently resides in McCandless, PA will be moving to Tucson, Arizona to be closer to one of his sons in the near future. Ken and Carol were active members of Zion's until they moved to the Pittsburgh area for Ken's job.

The schedule for the remaining Immerse Bible Study classes is as follows:

Thursday, May 20 at 11:00.

Tuesday, May 25 at 11:00

Tuesday, June 1 at 11:00 (last class)

The Knitting Group which meets every Tuesday will begin at 1:30 instead of 1:00. Youth Ministry will meet Sunday, May 23 after worship.

The Prayer Chain will meet Sunday, May 30 after worship in the Jackson Conf. Room.