

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

*\*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able*

November 7, 2021 10:30 a.m.  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Stewardship Sunday

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated  
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eleanore Donner, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

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.

PRELUDE

"O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

Anthony Giamanco

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP 2 Corinthians 8:7

*But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eleanore Donner, Lector

Leader: We gather together this morning to proclaim the ways in which God is working in our midst.

**People: We have been blessed by God!**

Leader: We gather together to give thanks for the ways in which God is working in our midst.

**People: We are being blessed by God!**

Leader: We gather together to open our eyes to the ways God is using us to work in our midst.

**People: We will continue to be blessed by God!**

Leader: God has given us so much and is very much alive, at work and still speaking among us. We are called to give back.

**People: We are called to be good stewards; good stewards of our time, of our gifts, and of our resources.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the God of blessings and affirm our commitment to the ministry to which God is calling us.

**ALL: Let us give thanks to God! Let us proclaim our faith in God! Let us worship God!**

\*OPENING HYMN "God is Here! As We Your People Meet"

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.

1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,  
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;  
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;  
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.  
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.  
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

*Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.*

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

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\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, forgive us. Our efforts to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength often fall short. Our lack of trust in you hinders our ability to give ourselves completely to you. We stubbornly deny that you know what is best for us. Our mindset of meagerness keeps us from loving our neighbors, and ourselves. Hear now our silent confession....**

\*A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

\*THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

\*A SONG OF ASSURANCE

**I need you every hour, O God of grace. The peace your voice affords, I now embrace. I need you, how I need you! Every hour I need you. O bless me now, my Savior, I come to you.**

*~you may be seated~*

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 pray for Rachel Lang, April Konig, the family of Bruce Wolff, Linda Schehl and Bob Seiple.

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

**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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 12:41-44 New International Version

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

SERMON      Sharing Our Time, Talent, and Treasure  
                   Guest Speakers: George Donner, Bob Fischer, Linda Seeley

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

    Invitation and Inventory

    Offertory Music      “Better Is One Day”      Matt Redman/arr. by Bill Wolaver

    \*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.**

    \*Prayer of Dedication

CHOIR ANTHEM      “Bread of Heaven”      Patricia Mock/Faye Lopez

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

    Invitation

    Communion Prayer

    Words of Institution

    Blessing the Elements

    Partaking of the Elements

    Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ who gave all that we might live abundantly. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world, called and blessed by the Holy Spirit, to serve as Jesus served. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN      “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (bulletin page 5)

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE                      “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”      George J. Webb/Cindy Berry

MEDITATION:      Steve Goodier, Pastor and author

*Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time; we can give our expertise; we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give.*

## STEWARDSHIP &amp; GIVING

## 688 We Give Thee but Thine Own

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be:  
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
 3 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,  
 4 The cap - tive to re - lieve, to God the lost to bring,  
 5 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
 to tend the lone and fa - ther - less is an - gels' work be - low.  
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.  
 what - e'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

WORDS: William W. How (1823-1897)  
 MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN  
 S.M.