

Matthew 10:24-39

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

*WELCOME TO
ZION’S REFORMED CHURCH*

United Church of Christ

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*His eye
is on the
sparrow*





*GOOD MORNING AND
WELCOME TO ZION'S
REFORMED CHURCH!*

BAPTISM

Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison is leading worship today and Don Curtis is providing organ music. Thank you both for being here!

The Altar Flowers are in honor of the marriage of Julia Langietti and Noah Toy.

The Chancel Flowers are in memory of our parents Robert E. Brink and Dorothea Brink, by the Brink Family.

Ushering in June are Karen Galus, Vanessa Saylor, Debbie Woodworth and Kelly Bielata.

Church Happening is not held in the summer. Children are invited to stay for the entire service.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Anderson Lounge for refreshments after the service.

Members of the Prayer Chain will meet in the chapel following the service.

Large Print Bulletins and Children's Activity Books are available in the back of the sanctuary. Seat cushions are also available.

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring." Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.



Thiel Choir 70th Reunion Concert

Thiel College and the Alumni Services Office eagerly invite you to attend the 70th Thiel Choir Reunion concert, scheduled for Saturday evening, July 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel on the Thiel College Campus.

The concert is free and celebrates the founding of the choir in 1953 by Dr. Marlowe Johnson. Currently, 103 choir alumni are registered! This year's reunion concert will be conducted by Dr. Michael Bray, conductor of the choir from 1996-2017, and accompanied by Lori Seinar-Roknick, organist and choir director at Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ in Greenville. For further information, please call David Hummel, Director of Alumni Services at 412-925-4425.



GREENVILLE HERITAGE DAYS

Zion's will be selling BBQ Chopped Chopped Ham sandwiches at Heritage Days on Saturday, July 8 at Riverside Park.

Would you like to help?
Please call Julie if you can work a couple of hours.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

June 25, 2023 10:30 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Baker, 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.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF LIGHT

Zachary Suntheimer, Acolyte

~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~

PRELUDE "More Love to Thee, O Christ" Doane/Whitworth

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today to worship God who created us.

People: The One who calls us,

Leader: The One who equips us,

People: The One who loves us without end.

All: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 471 "What a Covenant"

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: God created us in love so that we can enjoy this world.

People: In our hearts and our minds we want to serve you, your creation, your children.

Leader: Yet too often we shut ourselves off from the world through clenched fists and closed eyes.

People: We come before you with contrite hearts that we might experience your forgiveness;

All: That our fists would become open hands and our eyes would open to your grace.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we find it easier to follow the crowd than to follow you. We seek the praise of other humans, rather than seeking to give you joy with our faithfulness. When you call us to display values which do not make any sense to the world, we often disobey. Forgive us for these and for all of our sins. Strengthen us that we might transform our portion of the world. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The Psalmist tells us that God is compassionate and gracious.

People: The Psalmist assures us that God is slow to anger and abounds in love.

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for those who love and serve God.

People: We rejoice in God's compassionate grace. We rejoice in God's forgiveness.

***A SONG OF PRAISE NO. 292 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"**

~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 24 through 28

from 2:00-3:30



The week will include visits to The Good Shepherd Center and St. Paul's.

All Preschool and Elementary students are invited to join us as we learn how God teaches us to help others.

If someone you know needs a ride to and from VBS, please call Julie at 724-588-6940.

No need to register.
Just come and bring a friend!

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you have given us riches beyond measure. We can only return a fraction of what we owe you; but we ask that you will bless our offerings and help us to use them wisely in your service and for your glory. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 475 “God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow”

*THE BENEDICTION

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE “Christ, Thou Art Our Day and Night” Bohm

WORD FOR THE FAMILY “The Power of Soap Bubbles”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Zaiden Rhett Dawes

Parents: Ryan and Trista Dawes

Grandparents: Dino & Lori Tofani and Keith & Debbie Dawes

Great grandparents: Vincent & Kay Tofani, Patricia Montgomery, Jim & Janet Reagle.

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Pastor: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: By what name will your child be called?

Parents: Zaiden Rhett Dawes

Pastor: Zaiden Rhett Dawes, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this child. May he be filled with joy; and he never be ashamed to confess faith in you. Bless the parents of this child.

May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for their child. And bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Amazing Grace"

Don Curtis and Julie Hills, piano/organ duet

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

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 21:8-21 (bulletin page 11)

Matthew 10: 24-39 (back of bulletin)

SERMON

"Being Agents of Transformation"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "I Stand at the Threshold" J. S. Bach

*Doxology No. 780