

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 NIV

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Gospel Lesson Mark 8: 31-38 NIV

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

# WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

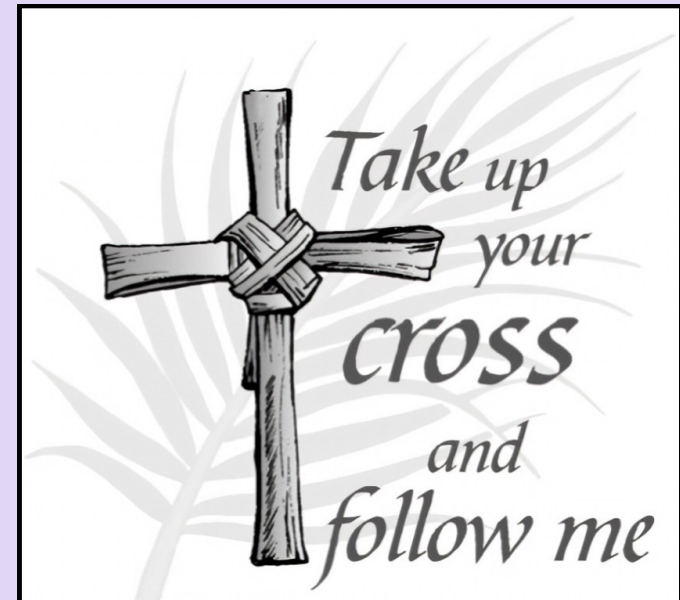
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**SECOND  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT**

*Welcome to  
Zion's  
Reformed  
Church!*

*We're glad you're here!*

We welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison today. Thank you for being here!

The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of Bill Johnston, by his wife and family.

Ushering today are Karen Galus, Linda Henry, Lynn Rinella and Emily Rinella.

The children are invited to the Youth Center after Word for the Family for an activity.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy coffee and conversation in the Anderson Lounge after the service.

**Large Print Bulletins** and Children's Activity Books, copies of the sermon, and seat cushions are available in the back of the sanctuary. Please help yourself or ask an usher.

**The Prayer chain will meet today after the service in the chapel.  
Chancel choir rehearses Thursday at 6:00**

## **Conspirito Concert at Thiel College**

Thiel College proudly invites you to attend a free concert featuring the Escher String Quartet, the featured ensemble for the next Con Spirito Concert Series concert at **7 p.m. Tuesday, February 27th in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel** on the Thiel College campus. More information about The Escher String Quartet is on the bulletin board in the front lobby.

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER  
Request for February is  
Breakfast items  
Pancake and syrup  
Canned tuna fish

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In the back of the sanctuary is an article called "Lent 101" which includes some great information about Lent. Please help yourself or ask an usher for one. Thank you, Pastor Glenn, for sharing this article.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music      Meditation on “Land of Rest”      John Purifoy

\*Doxology No. 780

\*Unison Prayer of Dedication

**We do praise you, Loving God, from who all blessings flow.**

**Receive these our gifts and offerings. May they truly be acceptable to you. May they help all who are in need. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN      “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;**

**Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.**

**With God our creator, children all are we.**

**Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.**

**With every step I take let this be my solemn vow**

**To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,**

**Let there be peace on earth; and let it begin with me.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*POSTLUDE      “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”      Marty Parks

**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.*

February 25, 2024      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

Betsy Fischer, 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

“A Moment of Peace”

John Turner

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:      We are gathered in the presence of God, who asks us to choose between life and death, blessing and curse.

**People:      We are gathered like the people of Israel who were challenged to choose the way of life.**

Leader:      By our presence here we declare that we choose life.

**People:      Let us praise the God of love and life who has called us to this place.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 190      “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Leader:** It is an awesome thing to stand in the presence of God.

**People:** **As far as the heavens are above the earth, God's ways are above our ways.**

**Leader:** We come with confidence before God because in Christ we are called to be God's people.

**People:** **Let us come with confidence before God and confess our sins.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy, your hopes for us are greater than our own, yet our failures do not surprise you. Forgive us, we pray, even for the sin we cannot see or find it painful to confess. God of love, accept us as we are, so that we may accept ourselves. Teach us to affirm what is good in our lives, and to put behind us what is unworthy, that by your grace we may live in confidence and joy. Amen.**

**\*THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE**

**Leader:** Almighty God forgives us our sins.

**People:** **God promised to bring us to everlasting life.**

**Leader:** Through Christ God has given us access to this truth and grace.

**People:** **We rejoice in this hope, this truth. Thanks be to God.**

**\*A SONG OF PRAISE NO. 189 "Down at The Cross"**

*~Before you sit down, please greet someone near you~*

**WORD FOR THE FAMILY "Big People Who Can Help"**

**CHOIR ANTHEM "Come, Lift a Song of Joy" Sonja Poorman  
Soprano Descant, Ruth Herrick**

**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.**

**CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE - CHANCEL CHOIR**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS (back of bulletin)**

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Gospel Lesson Mark 8: 31-38

**SERMON "A Time for a New Beginning"**

**THE UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify. He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image, and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races. He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be His servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.**