

John 15: 1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

*WELCOME TO  
ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH*

United Church of Christ

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## THANK YOU!

Rev. Glenn Sadler and Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison for your leadership, your faithfulness, and your heart.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU!**

### *Good morning and welcome to Zion's Reformed Church!*

Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison will be leading worship today. Thank you for being here!

The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of Wink Weikal, Warren and Agness Weikal and Howard and Dorothy Ruffing, by Nancy Weikal.

The Chancel Flowers are in loving memory of Amy Knapp, by Diane Stoyer.

Ushering today are Gary Hittle, Lori Tofani, Cynthia Snyder, and Debbie Woodworth.

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

Everyone is invited to the Anderson Lounge after the service for a lunch to thank Pastors Tim and Glenn for their ministry.

**Large Print Bulletins**, copies of the sermon and seat cushions are available in the back of the sanctuary. Coloring books and crayons are available for children.

Acts 8: 26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

SCRIPTURES

History of the Early Church ACTS 8:26-40 (page 7)  
Gospel John 15: 1-8 (back of bulletin)

SERMON "Let Your Imagination Run Wild"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation  
Offertory Music "Trusting Jesus" Michael Wilson  
\*Doxology No. 780  
\*Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, You call us to participate in the construction of the world you desire. We bring to you these our gifts. We also pledge to you our labor, our time and our commitment. We ask that you receive and bless these our offerings as well as our lives given in pursuit of that world. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 299 "For All The Saints"

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*THE POSTLUDE "Alleluia" J. S. Bach

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.

April 28, 2024 10:30 a.m.

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

WELCOME AND 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 Selections from "Godspell" Stephen Schwartz  
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Piano and Vocals

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are here not because we have found God but because God has called us here;

**People: God challenges us to accept the cost and joy of discipleship and to be servants in the service of the whole human family.**

Leader: God's call to us is also a promise:

**People: A promise of forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace and eternal life in God's realm that has no end.**

**ALL: Blessing and honor and glory and power be unto God!**

\*OPENING HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Rev. 4:8-11  
Reginald Heber, 1826

NICAEA 11.12.12.10.  
John B. Dykes, 1861

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see;  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In our confession, let us acknowledge what life is often like in an imperfect world.

People: **We open our hearts and minds to God in seeking God's grace and forgiveness.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we acknowledge we live cut off from many sources of strength and power. We often feel we cannot act. So many things call to us, grab for our attention. Our time is fragmented. Our lives are fragmented. We are broken. We seek the power of your Spirit, that we may live in fuller union with you and one another. Forgive us. Make us whole. Set us free. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news is that God forgives us and sets us free.

People: **Through Jesus Christ we are made whole.**

Leader: We move forward to the future again.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

WORD FOR THE FAMILY "Remembering Dr. T"

CHOIR ANTHEM "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" John Carter

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.**

\*HYMN NO. 433 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"