

Zion United Church of Christ

402 Main St. • P.O. Box 339 • Lowden, Iowa 52255

Service of the Word for the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 11, 2020



RINGING OF THE BELL

The candles on the altar are lit, reminding us of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION – ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Autumn Reverie

Joy Combs, Accompanist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Isaiah 25

O Lord, You are my God.

I will exalt You; I will praise Your name,

for You have done wonderful things, planned long ago, faithful and sure.

You have been a refuge for the poor, and for the needy in distress,

a hiding place from the storm, a shade from the heat.

The Lord of Hosts will prepare for all peoples a rich feast, a feast of choice wines.

God will remove the cloud of gloom, He will swallow up death forever!

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears.

This is our God in Whom we trust,

the One we waited for, so He might save us. Now at last he is here.

ALL: What a day of rejoicing!

*HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

No. 55

Rejoice, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks and sing;

your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Bright youth and snow crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek,
raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go,
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God of all hope. When we are too self-satisfied to make room; when we exclude others from entering the banquet which You have prepared for all who would come, forgive us. When we ignore the pain of the world; when we close our hearts and our minds to those who act or look or think differently, forgive us, O God. In Your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose Your will and obey Your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

... In the name of Christ - our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Take a moment to greet those around you – in person or online – with a sign of Christian love.

WELCOME THE CHILDREN

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong – They are weak, but He is strong!

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me – the Bible tells me so.

➤ *Children are excused to Christian Education classes.*

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the

gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

WITNESS TO THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Carter Horman

arr. Jason Tonioli

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

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.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY (“*song of praise*”)

No. 780

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God, above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, **with joy and thanksgiving we offer these gifts and our lives to be blessed by You. Use them to bring justice, mercy and love in Jesus' name. In all that we do, may we give thanks, sharing Your gifts with all in need. Amen.**

* HYMN

Spirit of Jesus, If I Love my Neighbor

No. 590

Spirit of Jesus, if I love my neighbor
out of my knowledge, leisure, power of wealth,
help me to understand my neighbor's anger:
the helplessness that hates my power to help.

And if, when I have answered need with kindness,
my neighbor rises, wakened from despair,
keep me from flinching when the cry for justice
requires of me the changes that I fear.

If I am hugging safety or possessions,
uncurl my spirit, as your love prevails,
to join my neighbors, work for liberation,
and find my freedom at the mark of nails.

Words © 1975, 1983 Hope Publishing Company

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*sung by all*)

The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious, gracious.
The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord lift his countenance on you and give peace, give you peace.
Shalom. Shalom.

*SENDING FORTH

Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God - we will! Amen.

*POSTLUDE

In Excelsis Gloria

**The Light of Christ is carried out into the world.*

Thank you to Today's Servant Leaders

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Liturgist:	
Organist:	Joy Combs
Videographer:	Cheryl Boedeker
Ushers:	Tim & Jane Drewelow
Acolytes:	Tucker Coppess and Owen Kahl
Ministers:	All God's People

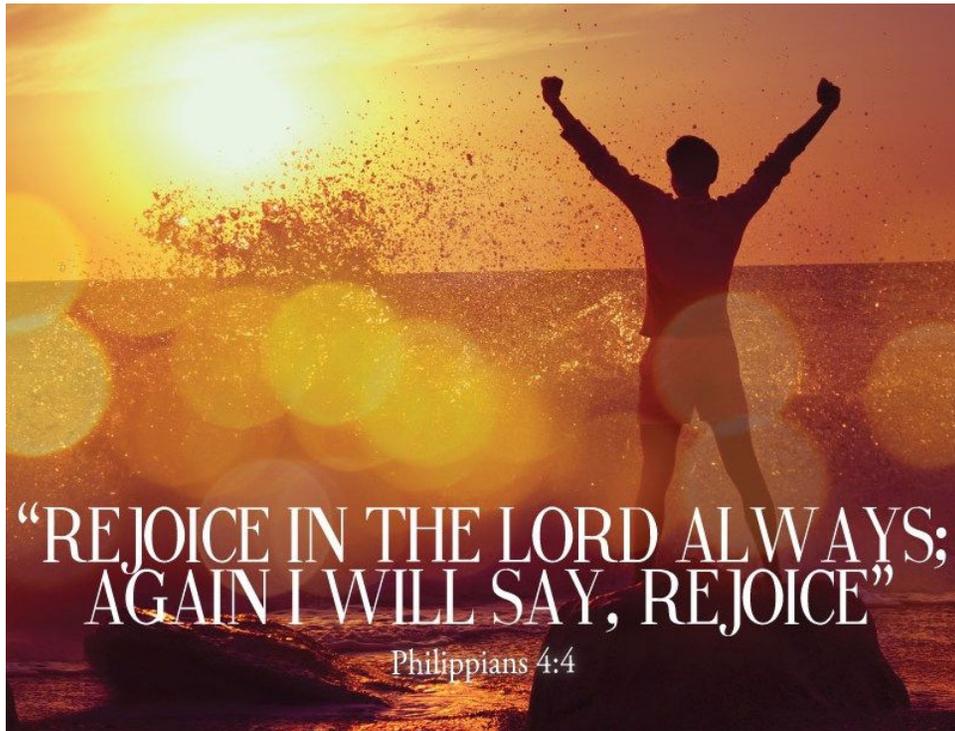
- **Children will be excused to Christian Education classes** after the Youthful Lesson.
- **PRAYER CONCERNS** – if you have a prayer concern or joy you would like included in the bulletin and/or newsletter, please contact Pastor Susan or the church office.

Zion United Church of Christ

402 Main St. • P.O. Box 339 • Lowden, Iowa 52255
(563) 941 7726 • www.zionucclowden.org

Secretary: Linda Behrens • Email: zionucc@fbcom.net

Interim Pastor: Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams
Email: zionpastor@fbcom.net



Join us for worship at Zion this Sunday at 9:30 am.

COMING UP AT ZION

SUNDAY, OCT. 11

Worship at 9:30 am

Christian Education at 9:30 am (begin in the sanctuary)

TUESDAY, OCT. 13

HACAP Mobile Food Pantry at Bennett Ambulance Building from 3:30 to 4:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

Building and Grounds Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

[Tri-Conference Joint Virtual Annual Meetings](#) from 8:45 am to 4 pm

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

Worship at 9:30 am

Christian Education at 9:30 am (begin in the sanctuary)

Missions Committee Meeting at 10:40 am

[VIEW THE ZION CALENDAR FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS](#)

NOTES:

- Due to COVID-19, it is **REQUIRED** that face coverings be worn at all time inside the church building for worship services, meetings, and other church functions. Also, please practice social distancing throughout the church. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

If you have decided to stay home from worship and other activities, we understand and respect your decision. Worship services are live streamed on [FACEBOOK](#) and posted to our [YOUTUBE](#) channel later in the day and later in the week on local cable channels.

IN MEMORY OF MARLENE WIEDENHOFF

Thanks be to God for the life of [Marlene Wiedenhoff](#). A private family service of celebration and remembrance was held earlier this week. The service is available for the public to view on the church's [YouTube Channel](#). A special thank you to all members of the Zion family who assisted with the service and luncheon.

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to assist with operating the video camera and running the Power Point slide presentation during worship. Please consider helping with these very important parts of our weekly worship service. Contact the [church office](#) or [Aaron Horman](#) if you are interested in helping out. A training session will be held later this month.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

In October, the Missions committee will be collecting office supplies for the church office. Some of the supplies that are needed include: clip boards, file folders, business-size #10 envelopes, small #6 envelopes, wide packaging tape, rolls of tape for dispensers and reams of paper (20-lb. weight).



SHF OFFERS FALL YARD CLEANUP

Members of Senior High Fellowship look to carry on the tradition of helping members with fall yard cleanup. If you need a hand with leaf raking or other outdoor fall-time tasks, please contact the [church office](#) or [Kelly Nabb](#). The date will be set based on weather and the number of requests received and likely occur later this month.

TRI-CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

Get ready for the first completely virtual Annual Meetings of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences of the United Church of Christ. Annual Meetings typically happen every June with joint and separate meetings alternating every year. However, for the safety and well-being of the congregations and communities in the midst of the pandemic, all three conferences have decided to host their annual meetings as a joint, completely virtual, event on Oct. 17. For more information, visit the [TCM Annual Meeting](#) webpage. If you are interested in attending and need assistance with the registration fee, please contact the [church office](#).



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need! Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Zion will continue to collect this offering throughout October. For more information, go to the UCC's [Neighbors in Need](#) webpage.

CONTACT ZION

PASTOR

Rev. Sue Schneider-Adams
email: zionpastor@fbcom.net
phone: (563) 941-7726

CHURCH OFFICE

Linda Behrens, Secretary
email: zionucc@fbcom.net
phone: (563) 941-7726

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm (or by
appointment).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Thursday from 8:30 am to Noon.

If you have church news or information to share in the weekly Zion News, please e-mail news@zionucclowden.org.