



World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2020

Zion United Church of Christ

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Welcome to the community in Christ at Zion United Church of Christ!

We believe that all people are children of God and rejoice that you have chosen to worship God with us today. If you are visiting our community, we wish to extend our hand in Christian fellowship and hope that you will take a moment to visit with us after the service. If you have any questions, please ask. May the Holy Spirit fill us and guide us as we worship God together.

*** Indicates please stand as you are able.**

GATHERING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

FAITH IN ACTION – ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

His Sheep Am I

Orien Johnson

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come! Weak-kneed and tongue-tied. Come with shattered dreams or punctured hopes.

For here is the water of life and the spring of joy.

All you with lonely hearts and worried brows.

Come close; gather in.

All you who are carrying the wounds of rejection, come.

For here is the love of a community gathered around a table.

Come. Here is a banquet for your soul,

Here is a feast of hope and healing.

God is here. Christ is present.

ALL: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!

***HYMN**

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
She is His new creation, by water and the Word:
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride
with His own blood He bought us, and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

-from South Africa

For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

God forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

God forgive us.

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,

We ask your mercy.

For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

We ask your mercy.

For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

God forgive us.

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

- from Bangladesh

Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you. God loves you like a mother embracing us in her lap; like a father, God watches over you, guiding you each day.

On behalf of the Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, I assure you: you are forgiven, forgive others. You are restored, restore others. You are reconciled with God, be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Thanks be to God! Amen

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

YOUTHFUL LESSON

Jesus Loves Me

EPISTLE (*Letter to the Church*) *Philippians 3: 4b -14*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he

sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

WITNESS TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

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.

*LITANY FOR NEIGHBORS in NEED

Praise be to God who calls us to imagine and believe that another world is possible.

We praise the One who calls us into covenant with one another. Deliver these our gifts to the work of bringing hope and wholeness to all our neighbors.

God of all times and all places, remind us of the world as You intend it: free from hunger, poverty, violence, and oppression.

Embolden us, O God, to imagine and believe that another world is possible! Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*INVITATION

In the early hours of the morning, while all was quiet and dark here where we live, the sun was rising on the other side of the world. And with the dawn of this new day, God’s people began gathering for worship amid the sounds of drums, or pipes, stringed instruments, or pianos and organs. And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus of those who call upon the name of the Lord.

On this World Communion Sunday we remember especially that the Scriptures are fulfilled as “people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.”

So come, not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are strong, but because you seek God’s strength. All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast that God has prepared.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed.
By Thy Hand we all are fed. Give us Lord, our daily bread. Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.



And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.
And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere
will be the feast.

1 Image: Courtney Pomeroy
- Poem: Jan Richardson

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.¹

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women, children, youth, and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses of your reign of love and justice. We offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

***SANCTUS** (*spoken by all*):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

(Congregation may be seated)

Among friends gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me." Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said, "This cup is God's new relationship, made possible by my life and death. Whenever you drink it, do it remembering me."

So now, following Jesus' example, we take this bread and this cup; for in them he has promised to be with us, making us whole, making us one. With sisters and brothers around your world, O God, we joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and reconciling love.

Gracious God, loose your Holy Spirit to run wild among us and through these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Send us your Spirit, to unite us, in this meal, with you and with brothers and sisters in Christ around your world, that we may know your peace and go forth to share it.

O God, keep us faithful to you, even when the way is dangerous. Claim our hearts and skills to build your peace, even as we await the day when your peace will come in all its fullness.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

¹Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship*, (Louisville: John Knox Press, 1993), p. 152

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, almighty God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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.

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

*We receive the bread and the cup together in the church or across miles.
The distance we keep for the health and safety of each other
is dissolved in the unity given by our Lord, and testifies to the power of love.*

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, You have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. We give ourselves to You, that our daily living may bear the mark of Your kingdom. May our love be Your love, reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

No. 347

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (repeat)

Christ is able to make us one, at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

***BENEDICTION**

- from the Christian Council of Asia

God go with you in all that is gentle. Christ go with you in all that is brave.
And the spirit go with you in all that is free. Go now in peace, to love and serve our God.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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.

POSTLUDE

If You Know the Lord

Bickley Reichner

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.

Thank you to Today's Servant Leaders

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Liturgist:	Terry Lasack
Organist:	Sandra Horman
Videographer:	Aaron Horman
Ushers:	Church Council
Ministers:	All God's People

- **On Communion Sundays**, there will be no Christian Education classes, so we can all worship together.
- **The Missions Committee** is collecting office supplies during the month of October that can be used by the church.
- **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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TODAY, Oct. 4	9:30 am	Worship – World Communion Sunday <i>Neighbors in Need</i> offering
Next Sun, Oct. 11	9:30 am	Worship Service & Christian Education
Tues, Oct. 13	3:30 to 4:30 pm	HACAP Mobile Food Pantry at the Ambulance Service Building, Bennett
Wed., Oct. 14	6:30 pm	Buildings & Grounds Committee

Due to COVID-19, it is REQUIRED that face coverings be worn at all times 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.

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUBURN
“We serve the community to express who we are.”

Residing and ministering in Northern California, project co-directors, Susan and Kenneth Moore, wanted to live out their faith by being a loving neighbor to the immigrant families in a nearby community. Equally, they knew that members of their congregation would need to be educated on the impact of immigration policies on their neighbors. Thus, they applied for and received a \$2,000 NIN grant.

Between Advent of 2018 and the fall of 2019, the Moore's began educating their religious community. They viewed documentaries, read books, and had a panel discussion, hoping to gain a broader perspective, including why people migrate. It was a big success! Notably, some members went a step further and began to learn Spanish.

With the task educate completed, the Moore's were able to invite their church family to begin by doing something for immigrant children who attended a local elementary school. Through a relationship with the school's community liaison and the school nurse, the congregation learned what some of the children needed. Members of First Congregational of Auburn were invited to provide clothing (shoes, socks, pants, shirts, coats, etc.). They did so, in abundance.

According to the Moore's, "we are learning more of the needs of the children and teachers... Some of us have become music docents, as they have no music program at all also, no art, library." Furthermore, they added, "we hope to recruit church members to help with tutoring... and to go on a people to people pilgrimage to Central America." While their journey is just beginning, Susan and Kenneth Moore, are grateful their church family for being willing to begin investing in lives of their neighbors.

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of First Congregational are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

all children have the right to simply be children...

Please join us in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering. Thank you!

