



This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also —
not the removal of dirt from the body —
but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.

It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

“A Clear Conscience Toward God”

Greetings

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 prior to the service, please ask anyone in the community. We have all been visitors at some time in our life, and we are eager to assist you in any way.

May the Holy Spirit fill us and guide us as we worship God together.

*Amplified hearing devices are available through our ushers.

May 17, 2020

Witness of Love

10:15 am

***Please stand as you are able**

Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

We Prepare to Worship God

Prayer & Prelude

We Gather Around God's Word

A Reading from Psalm 66

Call to Worship (responsive) (*based Psalm 68*)

One: We shout for joy to God who rides upon the clouds!

Many: We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!

One: God is the Defender of the defenseless and Parent to orphans; God creates families for those who are alone.

Many: God leads captives to freedom and breaks the yoke of oppression.

One: God enters the wilderness of our lives to bring restoration and justice.

Many: Sing praise to God, Ruler of the ancient skies.

One: Proclaim the power of God!

Many: O God, the world is your sanctuary.

You give power and strength to your people.

Praise be to God!

Opening Hymn "In The Garden"

1) I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

2) He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

3) I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Prayer of Invocation *(in unison)*

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you. Receive our invitation to dwell with us. Enfold us in your presence and fill us again with holy awe and mystery. We are yours and we claim you as our God. Amen.

Assurance of God's Unity

Pastor: As the Body of Christ, we are called to convey hope to the desperate, joy to the outcast, and peace to those in conflict. So, let us "clothe ourselves in the Good News of Christ, "so we may all be one!"

Many: Let us be one in Jesus Christ and live to the glory of God. Praise be to God! Amen.

The Passing of Christ's Peace in Community

Prayers of the People for everyone and ourselves in the world.

We Engage God's World

Scripture Reading

John 14:15-21

1st Peter 3:13-22

Intergenerational Lesson

Sermon "A Clear Conscience Toward God"

We Respond to God's Word

A Life of Giving

Pastor: As Christians, we are always called to support the ministry of Jesus Christ and the mission of God. Thank you for answering that call as God guides us to still waters.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Ever-present and loving God, your Word tells us to cast our troubles on you because you care for us. In faith and trust we give our gifts and ourselves to you. Bless us as we meet the needs of your beloved ones. Inspire each of us to live as Christ's witnesses, today and ever more. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

We Are Sent into the World

*Closing Hymn "Amazing Grace"

- 1) Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.
- 2) 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3) Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
- 4) When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

*The Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

*Commissioning & Benediction

*Postlude

ZION PRAYER LIST

Joan Weimann	Terry Lasack	Blake Proesch
Luann Gottschalk	Brian Hoffmeier	Marlene Wiedenhoff
Rose Horman	Gladys Conrad	Daniel Johnson
Roger Huffman	Viola Thomas	Chad Minor & fmlly
Carol Boedeker	Neal Mess	Kylee Schmalfeldt
Donna Breneman	Bruce Hoffmeier	Florence Deerberg
Helen Gottschalk	Janis Krafock	Berniece Minor
Pearl Huffman	Marcus Barnes	Rick & Mary Balke
Evelyn Unteidt	Pastor Scott	Elda Doermann
Nancy Loeffelhol	Rhonda Scholenfelder	
The family of David & Vickie Boettcher		
p.s. "Build up our faith O God!		

Serving Today

Reader/Liturgist: Aaron Horman

Organist: Sue Monson

Videographer: David Niermeyer

Ushers: Church Council

Disciples: All God's People

Pastor: Rev. Steve Stepp

Reproduced with permission under license #11160040 CCLI

Images used during worship are in accordance with US Code Section 110 (3).



Information Corner

Our website address is www.zionucclowden.org

Secretary: Linda Behrens

Zion office phone #563-941-7726

Pastor Steve Stepp email:

zionpastor@fbcom.net

Phone Office: 563-941-7529 Home: 563-941-5476

Office hours...Monday thru Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm

or set up a time that works best for you.

Psalm 66

- ⁸ Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;
⁹ he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.
¹⁰ For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.
¹¹ You brought us into prison
and laid burdens on our backs.
¹² You let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.
¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.
¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
¹⁹ but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.
²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my
prayer or withheld his love from me!

John 14:15-21.

- ¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you
another advocate to help you and be with you
forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot
accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows
him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will
be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will
come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see
me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live,
you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I
am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in

you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

1st Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.

It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.