



*“Are We Lost In the Mix?  
Or Caught Up In the Moment?”*

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 24, 2020

Spirit of Witness

10:15 am

**\*Please stand as you are able**

Church Bell      Welcome and Announcements

***We Prepare to Worship God***

Prayer & Prelude    "A Life Worth Living" - Ralph Carmichael

***We Gather Around God's Word***

**A Reading from John 17**

**Call to Worship** (responsive)

Leader: We long for community and the Presence of God.

**People: In whom we live and move and have our being.**

Leader: Jesus tells us that we will never be alone because the Holy Spirit will share our journey.

**People: The Advocate in whom we will live and create community and celebrate being.**

Leader: May the ever-present love of God be with you.

**People: And may the joy of Christ surround you.**

Leader: May we know the presence of the Holy Spirit as we gather in this community of peace, continuing to share the cost of discipleship with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.

**People: As an Easter People following the Risen Jesus, may the life of Jesus live on in us and through us. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn "God of the Ages"

1) God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the  
skies,

our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

2) From war's alarms, from deadly  
pestilence,

be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;

thy true religion in our hearts increase;

thy bounteous goodness nourish us in  
peace.

3) Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;

lead us from night to never-ending day;

fill all our lives with love and grace divine,

and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

## Prayer of Invocation (*in unison*)

**Always-Loving God, we are gathering in new ways for many reasons, each with our own story. These reasons are becoming stories that are immersed in your Sacred Story, because we find ourselves caught up in the drama and beauty of Jesus' teachings, life, and ministry. Enable us with your Holy Spirit to move humbly into the future by fulfilling the hope and love that Christ taught and lived. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Assurance of God's Unity

Pastor: God creates us and calls us to be in community and right now, community looks much different to us. So we must remember that as God's children, we are loved and Jesus equips us for great ministry inside and outside the church building. Therefore, let us follow Jesus' commandment to love boldly and put others before ourselves because we are all held in the grace and love of God.

**People: 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

1st Peter 4 :12-14

Acts 1:6-11

Intergenerational Lesson

Sermon *Are We Lost In the Mix? Or Caught Up In the Moment?*

## *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 a new way of life.

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

**Glorious Jesus, today as Children of God, we share in your love and work as the physically distanced but spiritually connected Church known at the Body of Christ. We continue**

now to witness and rejoice in your work as we continue our gifts to this church. May we all rejoice again someday when it is safe to gather physically in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*We Are Sent into the World*

\*Closing Hymn "I Am the Light of the World"

**I am the Light of the World**

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.

1) To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and  
good food,  
To feel the earth below the sky above!

**I am the Light of the World**

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.

2) To free the prisoner from his chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength and  
goodwill,  
To call a man your brother everywhere.

**I am the Light of the World**

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.

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

**\*Commissioning & Benediction**

**\*Postlude** "The Family of God" William Gaither & Gloria Gaither

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:

Organist: Sandra Horman

Videographer:

Ushers: Church Council

Disciples: All God's People

Pastor: Rev. Steve Stepp

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**Information Corner**

Our website address is [www.zionucclowden.org](http://www.zionucclowden.org)

Secretary: Linda Behrens

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**Pastor Steve Stepp** email: [zionpastor@fbcom.net](mailto: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.

## **John 17:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4 :12-14**

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

## **Acts 1:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."