



## *“Forgiveness: Only with God’s Help!”*

### 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.

August 16, 2020

Bold Moves

9:30 am

Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

*We Prepare to Worship God*

Prayer & Prelude

*We Gather Around God's Word*

**Call to Worship**

One: In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Praise be to God!**

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**All: It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.**

One: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.

**All: God meets us here.**

One: We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

**All: Praise be to God!**

**Prayer of Invocation** (responsive)

One: God of all days and nights, you created each of us unique beings with differing strengths and weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses.

**Many: Oh God who restores our souls, you have seen the parched places we have made in our lives, along with the devastation thrust upon us by the action or inaction of others. Meet us in the places of our deepest pain so that our facades of self-sufficiency might fall away, and we might be drawn into right relationship with you and one another.**

One: Glorious God, breath of our lives, without you we are but a mound of clay. Fill us with your presence, invigorate our worship, set us on fire so that others might be drawn into your light and nurtured by the warmth of your loving care.

**Many: In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Praise be to God! Amen.**

Musical Interlude: "Assurance" by Phoebe P Knapp #473 2x

The Passing of Christ's Peace in Community

Pastoral Prayer a sharing of community and world prayers

Affirmation of Faith

One: We are not alone; we live in God's world.

**All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*We Engage God's Word*

Scripture Readings

Genesis 45:1-11 Matthew 15:10-20

Our Multigenerational Lesson

Sermon "Forgiveness: Only with God's Help!"

Offering Declaration

In times of plenty and times of shortage, God provides for our deepest needs. I thank you for the generously you each provide for this church as it comes from the abundance of God's blessings because your gifts help us to do God's work in these challenging times.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

**Holy God, you are our provider. We dedicate to your service our lives and these offerings from your blessing and our labor. Work in us and through us to extend your love and care, here and around the world. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Musical Interlude: "Amazing Grace by Edwin O Excell #547 3x

*We Are Sent into the World*

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

\*Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude

Serving Today

Liturgist: Jean Stepp Organist: Sue Monson

Ushers: Church Council

Video: David Niermeyer

Disciples: All God's People

Pastor: Rev. Steve Stepp

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

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**or set up a time that works best for you.**

## Genesis 45:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup>And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup>For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup>But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all

Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

### **Matthew 15:10-20**

<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

<sup>13</sup> He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup> Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

<sup>15</sup> Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

<sup>16</sup> "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them.

<sup>17</sup> "Don't you see that whatever enters the

mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

ZION PRAYER LIST

Joan Weimann	Blake Proesch	Pastor Scott
Luann Gottschalk	Briana Terlisner	Marlene Wiedenhoff
Rose Horman	Gladys Conrad	Daniel Johnson
Roger Huffman	Viola Thomas	Chad Minor & fmyl
Carol Boedeker	Neal Mess	Kylee Schmalfeldt
Donna Breneman	Bruce Hoffmeier	Florence Deerberg
Helen Gottschalk	Berniece Minor	Pearl Huffman
Marcus Barnes	Rick & Mary Balke	Evelyn Unteidt
Elda Doermann	Nancy Loeffelhol	Mark Winder
Rhonda Scholenfelder	Terry & Doris	Bilsland

p.s.

"Dear God, enable us to forgive those who have hurt us!



*The flowers on the altar are in honor of  
Millie & Wilbert Muhs'  
50th Wedding Anniversary,  
which was August 14th.  
The flowers are presented by  
Zion Evening Circle.*

**Thank you for wearing your mask while you are  
in the church.  
It is the best way to prevent spreading COVID-19.**