



### 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.

August 23, 2020

Be Transformed

9:30 am

Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

We Prepare to Worship God

Prayer & Prelude "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" *Ira F. Stanphill*

We Gather Around God's Word

A reading from Exodus 1

Call to Worship: (responsive) *based on Matthew 16:13-20; Romans 12:1-8*

One: Who do you say I am?

**People: Some say Moses, some say Elijah, some say a Prophet who comes with a word from God.**

One: Who do you say I am?

**People: Some say Messiah, some say the "Human One" others say the Healer who shares the life of God.**

One: Who do you say I am?

**People: Some say Emmanuel, God-with-us, some say Wisdom, teacher of truth. Some say Ruler of Peace, Bringer of Justice.**

One: And Jesus asks you, Zion United Church of Christ, who do you say I am?

**People: You are the Body to which we belong; We are your members, each needed and treasured. In you, we are transformed into your Hope, your Love, your Vision, you are the One we long for, the One we seek here today, the One who empowers our lives.**

One: Come, Let us worship!

**People: Let us worship our God in the Body of Christ!**

Prayer of Invocation: (in unison) *founded on Exodus 1:8-2:10*

**Holy God, we tell your story today as a conspiracy of hearts: The defiant midwives, the laboring women, the daughter of power and the daughter of poverty join forces to protect the children of Israel and so, set the stage for liberation. Meet us here today and show us the gifts we have to offer in the service of your Kingdom—resilience, clear-sightedness, courage, compassion—setting the stage for a Just World for All. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

Pastor: The God of Moses and Elijah, "I AM WHO I AM", makes a way for you. God holds your hand and insists upon life. You are all a channel of God's love, now and always.

**Many: Praise be to the God of life who is, now and forever! Amen.**

Musical Interlude "Abbot's Leigh" by Cyril V. Taylor #70 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

Exodus 2:1-10      Matthew 16:13-20

Our Multigenerational Lesson

Sermon      *"Who do they say you are?"*

### Offering Declaration

Pastor: With praise and thanks, we create new life. With vigor and sweat, we deliver our love. With care and hope, we stretch out our hands. Thank you for your gifts and offerings which support this church and renew our world in faith.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

**Ever-loving God, with praise and thanks, vigor and sweat, care and hope, we bless these gifts in your love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Musical Interlude: "CWM RHONDDA" by John Hughes #592 2x

*We Are Sent into the World*

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

\*Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude "I'll Fly Away" Albert E. Brumley

Serving Today

Liturgist: Jean Stepp Organist: Sandra Horman

Ushers: Church Council

Video: Cheryl Boedeker

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).

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

Secretary: Linda Behrens **Zion office phone** #563-941-7726

**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.

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 & fmlly
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	
Marilyn Klahn		

p.s. "Dear God, help us to be reflections of Jesus!"

## **A reading from Exodus 1:8-22**

<sup>8</sup> Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us.

<sup>10</sup> Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

<sup>11</sup> So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

<sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so, the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites <sup>13</sup> and worked them ruthlessly.

<sup>14</sup> They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,

<sup>16</sup> "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

<sup>17</sup> The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

<sup>18</sup> Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

<sup>19</sup> The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are

vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

<sup>20</sup> So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.

<sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people:

“Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

### **Exodus 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, <sup>2</sup> and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son.

When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.

<sup>3</sup> But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch.

Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

<sup>4</sup> His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank.

She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

<sup>6</sup> She opened it and saw the baby.

He was crying, and she felt sorry for him.

“This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

<sup>7</sup> Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter,

“Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

<sup>8</sup> “Yes, go,” she answered.

So, the girl went and got the baby's mother.

<sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her,

"Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you."

So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

<sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she took him to

Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son.

She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

### **Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea

Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

<sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sun	M	Tues	Wed	Th	Fr	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 am Worship Service Mask required <b>School supplies Give away from 1 to 3 this afternoon</b>	<b>School supplies Give away from 5:00 to 7:00</b>					
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<b>9:30 am Worship Service with Communion Mask required</b>		8:30- 12:00 Office open	8:30- 12:00 Office open	8:30- 12:00 Office open		

**The Mission committee wants to say a Big Thank you to everyone who donated to our School supplies, & for the donations to the food pantry. The response was exceptionally good, and we should be able to help some of the children that need help with school supplies. Thanks.**

Pastor Steve last worship service will be on August 30, 2020,  
Come and wish Pastor a fond farewell and  
Good luck on his new adventure.

**NOTICE:**

The Mission Committee will be disbursing school supplies this afternoon, August 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the church basement. We will also be disbursing the school supplies on Monday, August 24 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm also, in the church basement. Please let someone you know who needs help with School supplies to come see us.

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