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**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 • 9:30 AM**

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

## **Zion United Church of Christ**

402 Main St. • P.O. Box 339 • Lowden, Iowa 52255

(563) 941 7726 • [www.zionucclowden.org](http://www.zionucclowden.org)

Check us out on social media:



**Zion United Church of Christ**  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 • 9:30 AM  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRAYER

PRELUDE *My Jesus, I Love Thee* Smith

**WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Romans 14)

Leader: Welcome those who disagree, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions: Like some believe in eating anything, while others eat only vegetables! Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat;

**People: for God has welcomed all.**

Leader: Those who eat, eat in honor of Christ, while those who abstain, abstain in honor of Christ:

**People: And all give thanks to God.**

Leader: We do not live to ourselves,

**People: and we do not die to ourselves.**

Leader: If we live, we live to Christ, and if we die, we die to Christ:

**People: So then, whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ.**

Leader: For to this end Christ died and lived again, to be Lord of both the dead and the living. So why pass judgment on your family or friends? Why do you despise them?

**People: For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.**

Leader: For it is written, "As I live, says God, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

**People: So then, each of us, accountable to God.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**Gracious God, draw near to us. Surround us with confidence in your good news: that you love us as parents love their children; that your mercy is boundless and generous, that you beckon us always and will wait forever as we find our way back to you. Open our hearts to receive your compassion; and then show us how to forgive, so that we may be vessels of resurrection hope in our troubled world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

HYMN *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped*

#22

**Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!  
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!  
Glad-some rejoice—organ and trumpet and voice—  
joining God's great congregation.**

**Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,  
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.  
Have you observed, how we are always preserved  
by God's parental affection?**

**Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.  
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.  
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:  
amen, amen never ending.**

THE PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE IN COMMUNITY

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

**WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD**

YOUTHFUL LESSON

*After the youthful lesson, children will dismiss to Sunday School classes.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 103: 1-13

Matthew 18: 21-35

MESSAGE *Forgiving and Forgiven*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* Founds

## PRAYERS

*A sharing of community and world prayers.*

## OFFERING DECLARATION

One: Like Paul, who was showered with an abundance of mercy from God, we too have been blessed. Like Paul, we are called to go forth and witness to the presence of Christ in our lives in so many diverse ways. One of the ways in which we tell the story is through the giving of gifts to God. Thank you for your gifts as we participate with God in providing for the needs of God's people. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above the heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

**Wonderful God, may our gifts become symbols of our intention to minister with Christ to satisfy the needs of those whom God loves. May we always seek out those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator*

#13

**O my soul, bless your Creator; all within me bless God's name;  
Bless your Maker, and forget not, all God's mercies to proclaim.**

**God forgives all your transgressions, all who suffer, gently heals;  
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.**

**As it was without beginning, so it lasts without an end;  
To their children's children ever shall God's righteousness extend.**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

\*COMMISSIONING

\*BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless and Keep You*

**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 *Joy of My Desire* Randolph  
*Please remain seated until the ushers dismiss you.*

**\* Please stand if you are able.**

### SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader:	Aaron Horman	Ushers:	Church Council
Liturgists:	The Horman Family	Acolytes:	Tucker Coppess
Organist:	Joy Combs		Cadence Horman
Vocalist:	Megan Horman	Videographer:	Jody Yutesler
Accompanist:	Carter Horman		
Disciples:	All God's People		

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*\*Amplified hearing devices are available through the ushers.*

Church Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 am to Noon  
Linda Behrens, Church Secretary  
Pastor's Office Hours: To Be Determined

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Due to COVID-19, it is **REQUIRED** that face coverings be worn at all time 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.
- Christian Education classes begin today. Children will begin in the sanctuary and then dismiss for class following the Youthful Lesson.
- A “Work Day” has been scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 20 at 2:00 pm. There are several exterior church projects including trimming bushes, weeding, and painting that need to be done. Pizza will be served at the conclusion. The rain date is Sept. 27. Please join us!
- A “Lost & Found” table has been setup in the main entrance. Please check this table for any items that you may have left at the church.
- The Missions Committee is collecting cleaning supplies during the month of September that can be used by the church custodian. Donations are being accepted of the following items: Clorox wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, 5 oz. paper cups for the bathroom dispenser, Swiffer Sweeper refills, toilet bowl cleaner, garbage can liners (13-gallon and 33-gallon sizes), Kleenex tissues, and hand soap.

## **PRAYERS**

If you have a prayer request or an emergency pastoral need, please contact the church office or Aaron Horman.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday, Sept. 13	Worship Service and Christian Education at 9:30 am
Monday, Sept. 14	Pastor Susan Begins
Thursday, Sept. 17	Church Council Meeting at 6:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 20	Worship Service and Christian Education at 9:30 am Church Work Day at 2:00 pm
Monday, Sept. 21	Evening Circle at Fox's Pond at 5:30 pm

### **Psalm 103: 1-13**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- <sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

### **Matthew 18:21-35**

- <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"
- <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold<sup>[b]</sup> was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.
- <sup>26</sup> "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'<sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup>“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.<sup>[c]</sup> He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup>“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

<sup>30</sup>“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup>“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup>In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup>“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”