

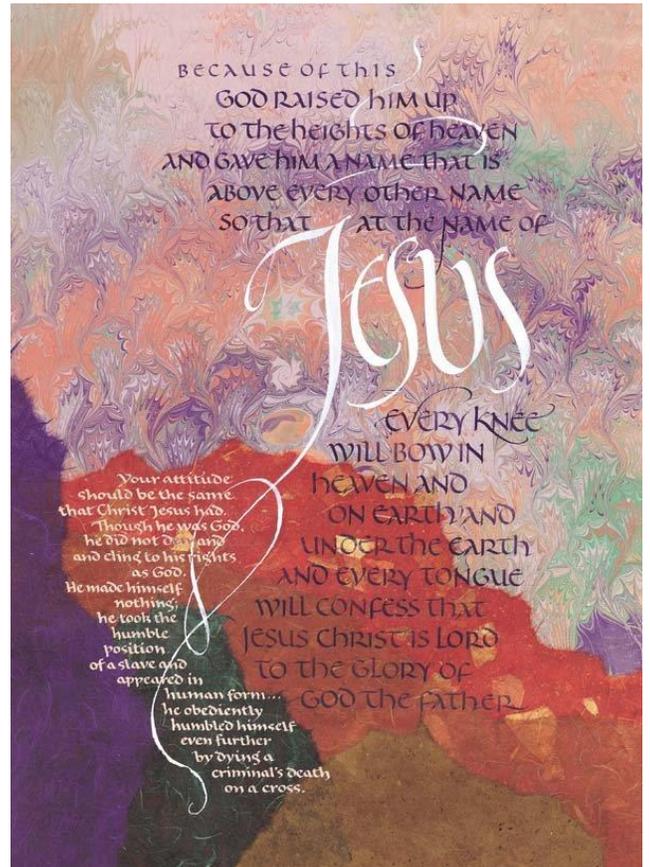
Zion United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 • 9:30 AM
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

* Indicates please stand as you are able.



Artwork: Iby Tim Botts

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Sweet Jesus, Gentle Jesus"*

J. S. Bach

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 25:1-9

I offer You my heart, Lord God, and I trust You.

Show me Your paths and teach me to follow;

Guide me by Your truth and instruct me,

Please, Lord, remember You have always been patient and kind.

Forgive each wrong I did when I was young, and my rebellious ways;

Show how truly kind You are and remember me.

You are honest and merciful, O Lord,

You guide the humble in what is right and teach them Your way.

ALL: I OFFER YOU MY HEART, LORD GOD, AND I TRUST YOU.

***HYMN**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

No. 42, vss. 1-3

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of all creation, Ruler of all peoples, You know us completely, how mean we are and how kind we are. We humbly confess the mistakes we have made and the good we have not done, the promises we have broken and the duties we have refused. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, forgive us. Give us the strength to do Your will, and serve You with joy; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news: in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we know that God's love has no bounds. Brothers & sisters, know this: in Christ we are forgiven - be at peace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE ENGAGE GOD'S WORD

YOUTHFUL LESSON

After the youthful lesson, children will be dismissed to Sunday School classes.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Jesus Loves Me

#327

SCRIPTURE READINGS

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-13

NRSV

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own

interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

New International Version

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while He was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him.

“By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

Jesus replied, “I will *also* ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said,

“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will ask, ‘Then why didn't you believe him?’

But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

So they answered Jesus, “We don't know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think?

There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

“I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’

but he did not go.
“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”
“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

WITNESS TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

. . . Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
**who, though He was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
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taking the form of a slave,
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And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted Him
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so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God.
So be it. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

PRAYERS

A sharing of community and world prayers.

GIVING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

No. 780

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

Wonderful God, bless and use these our gifts, that they may be a blessing to those who need food, housing, and help in time of trouble. Strengthen us and Your church, that we would have the courage to obey Christ's call. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN No. 436

God of Grace and God of Glory (vss. 1, 3, 4)

Harry Emerson Fosdick

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Cure Thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to Thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of Thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore,
serving Thee whom we adore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

... Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

Thank you to those Serving Today

Liturgist:	Julie Hofmeier
Organist:	Carter Horman
Ministers:	All God's People
Ushers:	Church Council
Pastor:	Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams



Announcements

- Due to COVID-19, it is REQUIRED that face coverings be worn at all times 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.
- Children will begin worship with us in the sanctuary and be dismissed for class following the Youthful Lesson. Today they will be walking to J & J Grocery (graciously opening today just for our youth) to purchase food items for our food pantry.
- Thank you from the Mission Committee, to all who donated cleaning supplies for our church!
- 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 Memorial Committee is accepting names for be added to the Memorial Monuments located at Lowden Memorial Park. The three monuments have been relocated to the newly renovated Memorial Garden on the west side of Lowden Memorial Park. The cost of each name plaque is \$100.00. If interested, please contact Jan Olsen (941-5511)

Prayers

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

Zion United Church of Christ

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

(563) 941 7726 • www.zionucclowden.org

Check us out on social media:

facebook

You Tube

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

Worship at 9:30 am

Christian Education at 9:30 am (begin in the sanctuary)

Senior High Fellowship at Nabb's Farm at 5 pm

MONDAY, SEPT. 28

Christian Ed. Teacher's Meeting at 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30

Worship & Music Committee Meeting at 7 pm

SUNDAY, OCT. 4

World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need offering

Worship with Communion at 9:30 am

Christian Education at 9:30 am (remain in the sanctuary for worship)

CONTACT ZION

INTERIM PASTOR:

Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams

email: zionpastor@fbcom.net | phone: (563) 941-7726

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm
(or by appointment).

CHURCH OFFICE:

Linda Behrens, Secretary

email: zionucc@fbcom.net | phone: (563) 941-7726

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 am to Noon.



WORK DAY THANK YOU

Thanks to our [Sunday](#) afternoon “Work Day” clean-up crew for giving us a hand on some odd jobs around the church this past [Sunday](#). We crossed many items off the list and had a little fun, too! To see more photos, visit our [Facebook](#) page. We are also appreciative of the members who volunteered to tackle some of our larger maintenance projects this fall. There are a few other exterior projects that could be completed before winter, so please let a council member know if you’d be willing to help out.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING Next Sunday, October 4, 2020

Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need! Neighbors in Need is the UCC’s annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries. Zion will receive this offering on [Sunday, Oct. 4](#). For more information, go to [ucc.org/nin](#).