



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**WORSHIP @ HOME**

[www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome](http://www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome)

*Kinship in Christ*

July 18, 2021

**Prelude**

*Quietude*, Cyrus Mallard

**We are Called to Worship** – Greetings, Zion. Grace and Peace to you from God our Creator and Jesus our Savior. We have been brought together this day, one family, inheritors of God’s love, bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny, one body in Christ. Let us lift up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done. (Ephesians 1 & Martin Luther King, Jr.).

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**A Time of Prayer**

*You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

**Song 1**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.*

**We Hear God’s Word**

*Ephesians 1 (CEB)*

1 From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will.

To the holy and faithful people in Christ Jesus in Ephesus.

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. <sup>4</sup> God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God’s presence before the creation of the world. <sup>5</sup> God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of

his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan <sup>6</sup> and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. <sup>7</sup> We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, <sup>8</sup> which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup> God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. <sup>10</sup> This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. <sup>11</sup> We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. <sup>12</sup> We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. <sup>13</sup> You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. <sup>14</sup> The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

<sup>15</sup> Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that <sup>16</sup> I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, <sup>19</sup> and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. <sup>20</sup> God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, <sup>21</sup> far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. <sup>22</sup> God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

## **Meditation**

*Kinship in Christ*

### **Song 2**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*

## **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation** – We are called to serve and rich the community God has gathered here and the community beyond. With joyful and generous hearts, we bring to God our offerings with thanksgiving.

**July Benevolence** – Our benevolence offering for July will go to support three of our United Church of Christ Seminaries – Chicago, United, and Eden Theological seminaries, known collectively as CUE. The mission of this partnership is “equipping prophetic and compassionate leaders for ministry, providing financial support for theological education.” Many of the pastors who have served Zion over the years have attended these seminaries, and support for future leadership is vitally important. “The CUE regional seminary support program brings together over 2,000 United Church of Christ churches in mid-America in support of our three UCC seminaries of the region.” We want to be one of those 2,000 churches who support our future leaders.

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate)

### **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks** – Glorious God, we thank you for trusting us to reflect your glory. For claiming us as your own with all of creation, we give you thanks and praise. As you receive these gifts and offerings, receive us also. Blessing all together, that our gifts and our lives might be a blessing that honors and glorifies you.~

**We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing** – Sisters and brothers in Christ, what a blessing to be God’s own and to be bound together as one in Christ. Go forth this day to share the love that you have found in Christ that others might know the overflowing grace, the boundless hope, and the glorious inheritance to which you have been called. Amen.

### **Postlude**

*Coronation March, William Stickles*