



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

July 4, 2021

Prelude

My Country tis of Thee, Lorenz

We are Called to Worship – This is the day which God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Come, let us worship together. Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God, and bless God's name. God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Invocation - Almighty God, on this special Sunday July 4th we come to worship. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

We Hear God's Word

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God has blessed us; let all the ends of the earth praise him.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer: *While Pastor Sarah is on vacation, you are welcome to send prayer requests to Terri Bennett. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

Morning Prayer: Almighty and loving God whose very nature is to be present in good times and in bad times; in warm days and cold days; in wind, rain and sunny life; in laughter and in pain; in joy and in sorry, we come just as we are in this time of prayer. We have so much to be grateful for on this Independence Day. Here in your presence, we acknowledge our forefather who hungered and thirsted for liberty and freedom. Let us never forget the sacrifice they made for each of us. We thank, O God, that we live in this great land, that we can gather to worship in Your name. Thank you for your many blessings. We remember those who have special needs and concerns this day. We pray for the mission of Christ in the world and around about us. We pray for the work that Zion is doing in this community and elsewhere.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us when praying to say...

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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. Amen.

Song 1

America The Beautiful

Meditation

CELEBRATING AMERICA

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation – Let us be truly thankful today for all that God has blessed us with.

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

Doxology

We Give Thanks – O God, of whose bounty we have all received, accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so, follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and good will among all people and advance the kingdom of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

We Gather at the Table

Song 2

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Sharing Communion - While the Lord's Supper is designed to be shared meal, we are going to celebrate it together in separation. This morning we will celebrate the sacrament during worship service in person or in your own home.

Prepare your own bread and cup (any bread or juice you have on hand will do). Prepare a place at your table.

Most importantly, prayerfully ready yourself to participate in the service and receive the gift of the sacrament.

Invitation - This table is open to all who confess their faith in Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come to this table just as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us; shared our common lot and invited us to join the people of God.

Confession of Sin and Pardon - Let us confess our sin against God and each other. Merciful God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life, but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways. Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy. Our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing. Forgive our willful neglect of your word, our insensitivity to the needs of others and our failure to feed the spirit that is within us; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Hear these comforting words: If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy, your sins are forgiven. Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life with God and all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Words of Invitation - We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer - Come Holy Spirit come, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each, and in all for whom Christ died.

Bread - Take eat for this is the body of Christ broken for you and me...do this in remembrance of Him.

Dink - Drink for this is the blood of Christ shed for you and me...do this in remembrance of Him.

Prayer of Thanksgiving - We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Song 3

Battle Hymn of the Republic

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing – The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty remain with you always. Amen.

Postlude

Battle Hymn of the Republic, Lorenz