



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

The Spiritual Practices of Jesus

September 19, 2021

Prelude

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

We are Called to Worship – God welcomes us this day to bring all that we are to worship. On this holy sabbath, we gather as God’s people to find rest and renewal, to put into practice our prayer and praise, and to receive the fullness of God’s love and grace. Let us worship.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

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

A Time of Prayer

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.

We Hear God’s Word

Mark 6:30-46 (CEB)

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. ³¹Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” ³²They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

³³ Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. ³⁴ When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

³⁵ Late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, “This is an isolated place, and it’s already late in the day. ³⁶ Send them away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something to eat for themselves.”

³⁷ He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

But they said to him, “Should we go off and buy bread worth almost eight months’ pay and give it to them to eat?”

³⁸ He said to them, “How much bread do you have? Take a look.”

After checking, they said, “Five loaves of bread and two fish.”

³⁹ He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass. ⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² Everyone ate until they were full. ⁴³ They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ About five thousand had eaten.

⁴⁵ Right then, Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake, toward Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After saying good-bye to them, Jesus went up onto a mountain to pray.

Meditation

The Spiritual Practices of Jesus: Prayer

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Prayerfully and with intention, let us discern this day what God is calling us to bring for our offering. Let these gifts today be a sign of our prayer, “Thank you, thank you, thank you, God.”

Using our Gifts and Talents: An Invitation to Council—We are blessed here at Zion with so many amazing people who use their gifts and talents to make our ministry possible. Year after year folks answer the call to serve on our council, providing essential leadership and direction that allows us to answer God’s call. It is that time of the year when we are asking you to discern whether or not God is calling you to serve in this way. We have three 2022-2023 positions to fill, and we will have one 2021-2022 position that will

be vacant and need a volunteer to serve the remainder of the term. If you have any questions, see a current council member. It is challenging but rewarding work that the council does, and we promise we do have fun, too!

September Benevolence—Since 1994 Horizon House has been serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness, meeting them where they are and providing them with shelter, safety, and services to improve their quality of life. The mission of Horizon House is this: “Horizon House is a full-service agency that connects individuals experiencing homelessness with integrated, comprehensive services. We provide a safe place and basic services as they take steps towards a more stable life.” Your gifts to Horizon House will directly support our neighbors.

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Doxology

We Give Thanks—For your abundant blessings, God, we give you thanks. For the gift of our worship together this day, we give you thanks. For the gifts we return to you in these moments, we give you thanks.

Hymn

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying, 489 (2x)

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing—God hears our prayers and speaks to our hearts. As you journey through this week, carve out moments for prayer, moments for listening, moments for connecting. May the love, power, and grace of God empower you to share the light of Christ with all you meet. Amen.

Postlude

Intermezzo