



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
October 31, 2021

Prelude

As the Deer

We are Called to Worship – Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Hear the commandments of our God. First, love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Recite the commandments to your children and hold them in your hearts. Second, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these calls to love. Amen.+

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— O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love, we thank you for your love that never lets us go. Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space with these your people – our neighbors – to worship you. We do not come merely to open the doors of the church, but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another. As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love– to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body. We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied to a single garment of destiny...Amen.+

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.

Bell Choir

We Would be Building (Finlandia)

We Hear God's Word

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NRSV)

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ²so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Mark 12:28-34 (NRSV)

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' ²⁹Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."³¹The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' ³²Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; ³³and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— Brothers and sisters, Dr. Martin Luther King reminds us: “I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be.” The invitation to bring our tithes, pledges, and offerings is an invitation to support one another, those within this community and beyond, to become all of what we are called to be. Our tithes, pledges, and offerings—both monetary and other—enable us to give thanks to God for the resources we have been given and enable us to be resources for others. As we give to this ministry, we help others become what they can be and we become more of what we can be. Give generously and watch the miracles of God unfold in our lives and our ministry together.+

October Benevolence—Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

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

Doxology

We Give Thanks— Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen.+

Hymn

I Surrender All, #474 (v. 1 & 4)

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing— Go forth, following as the Holy Spirit leads you, moving in love and compassion, pursuing justice and mercy, and trusting in the God of peace. For the Source of all life and love is as close as your very breath. Breathe deeply. Amen.+

Postlude

Great is Thy Faithfulness

+UCC Worship Ways. Trusting in the Source, Service Prayers for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Phoenix, Arizona.