



7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2020

Prelude

Eagle's Wings, Martha Main, YouTube

We are Called to Worship - We come to celebrate God's blessings to us. We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love. We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.. We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God. Wherever we find ourselves, surely God is in this place! Let us worship!+

Gathering Prayer - Holy One, you know us already. Help us to know you better. Let us see you all around us. Fill our worship with your Spirit so that we may learn to recognize your presence in all places. Amen.+

Song 1

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets, 24, YouTube

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.*

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. Amen.

Special Music

Here I Am, Lord, YouTube, Martha Main

Song 2

Refiner's Fire, 374, YouTube

We Hear God's Word

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

24 He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' ³⁷He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Meditation

Weeds in the Garden

Spiritual Practice of the Week



In our own lives, the wheat and the weeds grow side by side. In some ways we are good and fruitful. In other ways, we could probably do better. Spend some time reflecting on the garden of your life. Are there weeds growing in your garden that you are ready to uproot? Perhaps there are unhealthy vices, a tendency to have a quick temper, an inclination toward too harsh words, a bias toward writing others off as weeds too quickly. Our shortcomings are part of our humanity, but thankfully, our Great Gardener leans towards grace.

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Offertory

Friends, we may not be together in person today as we worship, but the ministry of our church goes on. During this time when we are apart, we are still in need financial support for our ministry.

You're invited to take out your checkbook in these moments. As you write out your offering, be prayerful with each letter and number. In times such as these, when money becomes tight and our economy is under strain, God invites us to be generous and give what we can. These are gifts we freely give, as we are able and as we are called.

We ask that you please mail in your offerings to our office.

Zion United Church of Christ

8916 E. Troy Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46239

You can now submit your offerings on our website through a secure PayPal donation button. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments. Check it out on our website at www.zionuccindy.net/donate.

The Doxology (Please sing the version that is most meaningful to you)

Version 1

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

Version 2

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

***We Give Thanks** (unison) – **Loving God, we offer back to you what we have been given: our treasure, our time, and our lives. Bless our gifts and multiply them for your purposes. Amen.+**

Song 3

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, 72, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing - In all places, God holds you fast. May you know deeply the presence of God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Go with God, and go forth this day to love and serve the LORD. Amen.+

Postlude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Martha Main, YouTube