



9th Sunday After Pentecost
August 2, 2020

Prelude

I Need Thee Every Hour, Martha Main, YouTube

We are Called to Worship - In our darkest hours, God's light continues to shine. In our weariest moments, God's strength is enough. In our times of greatest isolation, God's presence is always near.~

Gathering Prayer - Mighty God, pour out your power and strength on us. Grant us the nourishment we need to receive your word. May your presence fill our lives and carry us forth, preparing us to be your people and equipping us to do your work in the world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen~

Song 1

As We Gather At Your Table, 695, 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 (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

Matthew 14:31-21

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' 16 Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' 17 They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' 18 And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Meditation

Wilderness Table

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) – As you blessed bread and fish on a Galilean shore, bless and transform these gifts into abundant blessings for those in need; bless and guide our ministries into avenues for your mercy and grace. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.~

We Gather at the Table

Song 2

We Come as Guests Invited, 702, YouTube



Set Your Place at the Table—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

Our Invitation-- As Jesus welcomed the thousands to share in a feast created from a few loaves and some fish, Christ welcomes us now to this abundant feast of holy communion, where we are fed with God's grace and love.~

The Words of Institution—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God's people from slavery in Egypt. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you." In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, "This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me." Today, we remember Christ's body broken for us and blood shed for us that we might know more fully of God's unending love. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Together let us pray. +

Our Confession (unison)— Come to us, Holy One, even in our times of resistance. Work within and through us, even when we wrestle with doubt and despair. Enlighten and guide us, even in our darkest hours. Bless us and call us by name, even when we reject your presence. Hold us and love us, even when we try to run away. When we feel beat down by the world, and are weary with fatigue and sorrow, nourish us with your mercy and your grace. Fill us with your love, that we may go forth with confidence and faith. In your mighty name, we pray. Amen. ~

Assurance of Grace— God's strength is enough. Christ's forgiveness is sure. Through God's strength and Christ's grace, we are blessed, loved, and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.~

Blessing Our Meal— Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might know your blessing and receive your grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of the table. May they nourish us as bread that never ends and as living water that always satisfies. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes again in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forevermore. Amen.~

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you, take and eat.” As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. Take and drink.”

We Give Thanks— For the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal, which unites us with your church around the world, God, we give you thanks. We give you thanks that at your table we have experienced your presence and your grace, abundant gifts which know no end. Amen.

Song 3

Sent Forth By God's Blessing, 712, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing – As we have received light, we go now to bring light to the world. As we have received God's blessings, we go now to be blessings to others. Go forth this day to love and serve the LORD. Amen.~

Postlude

Take My Life and Let It Be, Martha Main, YouTube