



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**WORSHIP @ HOME**

[www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome](http://www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome)

*Kinship in Christ*

July 25, 2021

## **Prelude**

**We are Called to Worship** – From far and near, we gather to be close to God. But always, God dwells in and with us. No matter how far we wander, God’s Spirit is as near to us as our very breath.~

## **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**—Holy Spirit, flow through our worship. Dwell in us this day and all days. Speak through our words, breathe into our thoughts, and gather us together as one community of faith. Build us together on the foundation that is ours in Christ Jesus our cornerstone. Flow through our days, that we may be reflections of your presence.~

## **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**

*Gavotte, J. S. Bach*

## **We Hear God's Word**

*Ephesians 2 (CEB)*

2 At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. <sup>2</sup> You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. <sup>3</sup> At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

<sup>4-5</sup> However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. <sup>9</sup> It's not something you did that you can be proud of. <sup>10</sup> Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

<sup>11</sup> So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called "uncircumcised" by Jews who are physically circumcised. <sup>12</sup> At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. <sup>13</sup> But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. <sup>15</sup> He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. <sup>16</sup> He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

<sup>17</sup> When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. <sup>20</sup> As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

**We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation** – We are called to serve and rich the community God has gathered here and the community beyond. With joyful and generous hearts, we bring to God our offerings with thanksgiving.

**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](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate)

**Doxology**

**We Give Thanks** – Holy Spirit, flow through these gifts we return to you now. Dwell in them, as you dwell in us, that others may know your abiding presence and your steadfast love. In your holy presence, we pray. Amen.~

**Hymn**

*The Church's One Foundation, 544*

**We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing** – From far and near, we have been brought close to one another in the heart of God. As we wander forth in the world, may we remember that God dwells in us, and that God's Spirit is as near to us as our very breath. Amen.~

**Postlude**

~Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 (p. 167). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.