

WORSHIP WITH ZION

SUMMER 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

The 1st Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Gathering—O God, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Your glory shines from below and grows from above. You bring wisdom from the youngest and most vulnerable of us. You call forth delight in those who live both long and deep. We look to your creation and find you everywhere. We see you in the moon and the stars. O God, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

A Time of Prayer—Great Creator, who are we that you are mindful of us? Who are we that you care for us? We don't know what we have done to deserve your love, God; maybe nothing at all. And yet, you give it freely, openly, enthusiastically— asking only that we receive it, hoping only that we share it. Come, and help us receive it. Come, and help us share it. 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.

We Hear God's Word

Genesis 1:1-2:4a (NRSV)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.’ And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the

earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ ²⁹God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

²Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Meditation

Back to the Garden

Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful, 30

We Gather at the Table

Set Your Place at the Table—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—Around Christ’s table we get a glimpse of Paradise, where forgiveness and grace overflow, where God’s beloved gather as one, where abundance fills both body and spirit. You are invited to come and feast of the grain of the earth and the fruit of the vine and experience God’s everlasting love.

A Prayer for Transformation— Gracious God, you have given us the world. Yet too often, we have taken it for granted, and failed to respect your great gift. We have received authority but thought it power. We have received responsibility but decided it belonged to someone else. We have received your calling but considered it control. It is easy, O God, to take the power and leave

the responsibility. It is easy to forget that disciples are made in many ways, not just our own. We have not always remembered that you have entrusted your cherished creation to us. We have not always remembered that the word “entrusted” includes “trust.” We have not always believed that you have trusted us, and that you trust us still. Remind us, O God, that we are part of creation, not separate from it; that we are part of your people, not separate from them. Forgive us when we take your gifts and your people for granted, and help us start again. Amen.~

Assurance of Grace— When we forget our blessings, we have only to look to God to find them again; we have only to remember that God already blesses us, already loves us, already cares for us. God is with us to the end of the age. God’s presence will be made full again. And so will our hearts.~

The Words of Institution— On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God’s love...

Blessing Our Meal—God of the Universe, when you created this world you offered your blessing upon, consecrating it, making it holy, proclaiming its goodness. We pray that you bless this meal—the grain of the earth and the fruit of the vine—that they might be for us a tangible reminder of Christ’s redeeming and healing presence among us. 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—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a

rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.~

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Our Generous Creator God has blessed us with abundance. Let us bring a portion of what we've received so that others, too, might get a glimpse of life as God intended. May these gifts nurture a little piece of Eden for our neighbors who long to know a world where there is enough.

June Benevolence—Emergency Assistance Fund

Doxology

We Give Thanks—You have given us more, O God, than we could ever repay. You have filled us in ways we didn't even know we needed. Awakened again to both the Giver and the gifts, we respond in gratitude, passing along your grace. Take the offerings of our lives and our hearts, O God, and use them to care for your family and for your world. Amen.~

Hymn

Let All Things Now Living, 22

Benediction—People of God, receive God's greatest gifts— gifts of people and place. Go forth to share these blessings with the world. Know that the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit goes with you, now and forevermore.~

Postlude