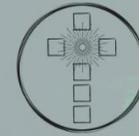


# WORSHIP WITH ZION

## SUMMER 2023



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

### **Prelude**

*Sunday is Above All*

**Gathering**—Ours is a God who makes a way when there seems to be no way. Ours is a God whose abundant blessing overflows. Ours is a God who sees the brokenhearted, the outcast, the one in need and pours out compassion. Let us worship our great and merciful God.

**A Time of Prayer**—God of the covenant, your compassion reaches beyond the mere making and keeping of promises. Teach us to listen to one another with your heart, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 21:8-21 (NRSV)*

8 The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup>But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup>So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' <sup>11</sup>The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup>But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. <sup>13</sup>As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' <sup>14</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

<sup>15</sup>When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup>Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the

distance of a bowshot; for she said, ‘Do not let me look on the death of the child.’ And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup>And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, ‘What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup>Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.’ <sup>19</sup>Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup>He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

## **Meditation**

*The Waymaker*

## **Hymn**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, 68*

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

**Invitation**—Christ knows every breath we take: each one is a gift from the Spirit. God watches over, protects, and provides for us. Let us present our offerings of thanksgiving for the goodness of the triune God.=

**June Benevolence**—Emergency Assistance Fund

**Special Offering**—Strengthen the Church

## **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—Holy One...we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the life in Christ Jesus that we receive from you. You have shown that your mercy overcomes sin and evil and brings relief from oppression. We thank you for your steadfast love that keeps covenant with your people. In Christ we know the depth of your care for all that you create. We invite the Holy Spirit to help us so that we can praise you eternally in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.=

## **Hymn**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing, 719*

**Benediction**— The God of all mercy, who answers the cries of the helpless and raises you from death, keep you safe in Christ Jesus, now and forever.=

## **Postlude**

*Sonatina*