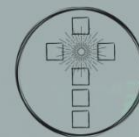


# WORSHIP WITH ZION

## SUMMER 2023



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

### **Prelude**

*Battle Hymn of the Republic*

**Gathering**—O Sing to God a song of joy, for we have been greeted by our God. O Dance for God a waltz of welcome, for we have been embraced by our God. O Create for God a portrait of hope, for we have been inspired by our God.+

**A Time of Prayer**—You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Realm, ready to welcome us as we step across the doorway of your Kin-dom. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of your love. May we open doors to your Realm. May we be your encouraging embrace and your melodic voice of welcome in a world filled with harsh tones.+

**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**

*Isaiah 43:18-19 (NRSV)*

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

### **Meditation**

*A New Thing*

### **Hymn**

*As We Gather at Your Table, 695*

### **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**—At Christ’s table, we find an extravagant welcome, where all who hunger may be fed, where all who thirst may find drink, where all who long for healing may be restored. Bring all of your hunger, your thirsting, your longing to this abundant feast and find your fill.

**A Prayer for Transformation**—Holy God, creating a home for strangers and friends can often take extra effort. From the extra cleaning to food preparations, we spend extra time, talents, and treasures to care for your children. Sometimes, we often do not feel as if we have the energy to go the extra distance – to ensure the drinks are cold and our homes are cozy. Give us an extra boost in our bodies, minds, and souls to be the welcome team in your Realm. May we embrace divine hospitality as we care for the ones struggling the most, the ones caring for your creation, and the ones speaking prophetically for you. Amen.+

**Assurance of Grace**—God continues to welcome us into the Divine Realm even when we walk past its doorway. God’s magnificent grace will refresh our hearts, inspiring us to return again. Amen.+

**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**— Spirit of God, just as you hovered over creation and renewed your church at Pentecost, surround these elements. Encircle us, energize our souls, and connect us with each living being here on earth. Just as you have delighted in humans since creation, may your presence create joy in our spirits, transforming us into new beings. Bless the soil that birthed the grains and grapes that we share today. May these elements be transformed into a meal that connects us all...May this meal be one in which we embrace the power we have and strengthen the world with justice and peace, kindness and love. 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**—Holy God, with gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.+

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

**Invitation**— The Realm of God asks for us to care for our neighbors: from the children who are thirsty to caregivers who need a place to rest. This is our opportunity to use our treasures, talents, and time to ensure all have what they need. May we reflect on the ways we can share and give as we are able.+

**July Benevolence**—God’s Bounty Food Pantry

### **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—Spirit of God, when we share from our souls, we open our hearts to your works in this world. When we tend to our neighbors who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst. When we welcome the prophet who shares your love through their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout our world. When we share with a stranger, we experience Divine joy as our reward for giving. Bless all gifts as they build your Realm here on earth. Amen.+

### **Hymn**

*Called As Partners in Christ’s Service, 581*

**Benediction**—May the Spirit of God lead us to build God’s realm on this earth  
So all will have the most refreshing water to drink,  
So all will have a warm space to rest at the end of long days,  
So all will know the joy of your Kin-dom. Amen

### **Postlude**

*God and the Nation*