

WORSHIP WITH ZION

SUMMER 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

Church Camp Song Sunday

Today, in our worship, we are singing church camp songs old and new, classic and contemporary. These are songs that some of us learned during that important time of our youth, as our faith was becoming our own. They were often...different...than the songs we were used to singing on Sunday mornings, but they were meaningful and life-giving. Sometimes they were written to make faith fresh for younger generations. The good thing is that these songs don't have to just be sung at camp. We hope that these songs of praise energize your spirits and ignite your faith.

Prelude

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Gathering—Ours is an awesome God who welcomes us this day to worship. Here, in this community God has called together, worshipping both in-person and online, the Spirit is at work. Here in this body of Christ, there is a place for you. Here you may bring all that you are and worship just as you are in the presence of our holy God. Let us worship.

Song

Awesome God, (2x), 658

A Time of Prayer—Awesome God, we come before your presence during this sacred time of worship to gather as your people. We bring to you all of our sorrows and our joys, our struggles and our celebrations, ourselves. You invite us to come as we are. We thank you for your welcome, for your invitation, for your persistent love, and for your presence among us.

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.

Song

Kum Ba Yah, 487

“Kum Ba Yah” means “Come By Here.” Many folks attribute this song to the Gullah people who were enslaved in Georgia and South Carolina. This was a song

of invitation to God to notice and remember the folks who sang it, folks who were often forgotten, folks whose personhood was denied. They wanted to make sure God had not forgotten them. The song became popular in the 50s and 60s in the folk scene, with folks like Pete Seeger and Joan Baez singing its message of intentional noticing all across the nation. It brought people together.¹

We Hear God's Word

Matthew 19:13-15 (CEB)

¹³ Some people brought children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded them. ¹⁴ “Allow the children to come to me,” Jesus said. “Don’t forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children.” ¹⁵ Then he blessed the children and went away from there.

Meditation

Come to Me

Song

Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone (handout)

This is a song that is so popular among younger generations these days. Chris Tomlin brings new life to a classic hymn by giving it a bit of an update. It’s a balance of old and new, of traditional and modern, a blending of generations.

Prayground Blessing—God, we ask your blessings upon this prayground. Work through this sacred space that it might extend your welcome to the little ones, the children you embrace with open arms. Help us to share with those in our lives the welcome that this fun and safe space extends so that it might serve and enrich a new generation of your disciples. Amen.

Song

Michael, Row Your Boat Ashore (handout)

This is another one of those songs that became popular during the folk movement of the 50s and 60s. It, too, was an African American spiritual, dating back to the Civil War and the islands of South Carolina. At the end of the war, plantation owners abandoned the island of St. Helena, and the freed slaves who were left sang this song of freedom as Union soldiers arrived to liberate them. It was published in 1867 in the book *Slave Songs of the United States*.²

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—We invite you now, to come and share of your gifts and talents, your resources and your very lives for God's work in this world. With hearts of gratitude, in a spirit of worship, we share with God so that God's work in

¹ <https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2018/02/kumbaya-history-of-an-old-song/>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael,_Row_the_Boat_Ashore

this world might be made real. Your gifts this day will allow us here at Zion to serve and enrich our community and to make God's welcome tangible for all those this ministry touches.

July Benevolence—God's Bounty Food Pantry

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God, we thank you that you welcome us with open arms. This day we have heard your call for our ministry to extend your welcome far and wide, to reach out to our neighbors, to share with new generations the power of your love. Bless these gifts and all who give that together we might answer this call and work together for the building of your kin-dom here on earth. Amen.

Song

Lord of the Dance, 118

A Blessing for Extending God's Welcome

Song

Pass It On, 557

Benediction—May you carry God's love out into the world as you extend God's welcome to those you encounter this week. May our great Creator, our precious Savior, and our igniting Spirit be with you in all things. Go in peace and pass it on. Amen.

Postlude

The Battle Belongs to the Lord