

WORSHIP WITH ZION

SUMMER 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

9th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

All is Safely Gathered In

Gathering—*You* are welcome here. You are *welcome* here. You are welcome *here*. Jesus, our Savior and our friend, came to seek and save the lost, so you are welcome here, just as you are. Let us worship.

Taizé Song

Prepare the Way of the Lord, 174

A Time of Prayer—God, you invite us to come into your presence today. We give you thanks for this opportunity to gather as your people. We come with gratitude in our hearts for the wonders you have enacted in our lives. Indeed, by your overflowing grace we have seen unimaginable things take place. United us this day with our siblings across the world who gather to worship you. Remind us, oh great and mighty God, how far and wide your love extends. May we embody the welcome you have shown us here today that others might know, too, the new life we find in you...

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.

Back to School Gifts and Blessing—God, as students, teachers, and staff head back to school, as families and caregivers offer their support, we ask for your care and guidance and protection to be with them all. May the year ahead be one full of wonder and growth and exploration. May this school year enrich the lives of all those who embark on this journey. As your church, may we offer our support and our encouragement for our members and friends in all that is ahead for them. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Luke 19:1-10 (CEB)

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. ² A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus

was, but, being a short man, he couldn't because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today." ⁶ So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

⁷ Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ The Human One came to seek and save the lost."

Luke 5:17-26 (CEB)

¹⁷ One day when Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and legal experts were sitting nearby. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. Now the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. ¹⁸ Some men were bringing a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. They wanted to carry him in and place him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they took him up on the roof and lowered him—cot and all—through the roof tiles into the crowded room in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The legal experts and Pharisees began to mutter among themselves, "Who is this who insults God? Only God can forgive sins!"

²² Jesus recognized what they were discussing and responded, "Why do you fill your minds with these questions? ²³ Which is easier—to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But so that you will know that the Human One has authority on the earth to forgive sins" —Jesus now spoke to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, get up, take your cot, and go home." ²⁵ Right away, the man stood before them, picked up his cot, and went home, praising God.

²⁶ All the people were beside themselves with wonder. Filled with awe, they glorified God, saying, "We've seen unimaginable things today."

Meditation

Extending God's Welcome

Song

We Are Called to Be God's People, 580

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—You are invited now to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give this day. Ours is a generous God who showers us with abundant blessings, who gifts us with talents and skills we can use to make this world better, who is overflowing with mercy and grace. With thanksgiving let us dedicate to God this day our gifts so that our ministry together might carry on.

July Benevolence—God's Bounty Food Pantry

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God of grace and God of glory, pour out your blessings upon the gifts we bring to you this day. Use them that they might be an extension of your welcome to those who are longing for love and belonging and the fulness of life. Multiply these gifts that we might live out our mission and our purpose here at Zion to serve and enrich your beloved. Amen.

Song

God of Grace and God of Glory, 569

A Blessing for Extending God's Welcome

Benediction—Jesus came to seek and save the lost. As his disciples, it is up to us to let people know that no matter who they are, or where they are on life's journey, Jesus' welcome extends to them. So, go, share the Good News, extend God's welcome, and watch as unimaginable things unfold. Amen.

Postlude

In Faith the Victory