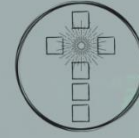


WORSHIP WITH ZION

SUMMER 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

The 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Gathering—We gather this day to worship a God of extravagant welcome and abundant love. Our God sees us in our need and provides overflowing care. God sees us in our struggles and offers unending grace. In thanksgiving, let us bring all that we are, the fullness of ourselves, as we lift up our praise to our amazing God.

Taizé Song

Prepare the Way of the Lord, 174

A Time of Prayer—God, it is an honor and a privilege to be able to gather this day to worship you. It is a blessing to be together as the body in Christ, gathered in-person and online. We thank you for your compassion and care for us. We thank you that you are always calling out to us to draw nearer to you and nearer to our neighbors. God, help us to embody your generosity in our ministry here at Zion. Inspire us to be lavish in the care we provide, bold in the love we show to our neighbors, and extravagant in our welcome...

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

Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)

²⁵ A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"

²⁷ He responded, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*"

²⁸ Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. ³¹ Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. ³² Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. ³³ A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ ³⁶ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

³⁷ Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Meditation

Generous in All Things

Hymn

We Give Thee But Thine Own, 688

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—Christ came into the world ready to pour out overflowing grace and mercy. Through the abundance of Christ’s love, through the generosity of Christ’s sacrifice, our lives have been transformed, our brokenness mended, our hearts made new. Let us turn to our Savior that we might receive anew the healing we long for.

A Prayer for Transformation—*As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider our needs for transformation and forgiveness. I invite you to quietly reflect on our need for grace. (A short moment of silence.)...Dear God, the creator of all things based on love, you created us in your image of love. There have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you*

but to each other and all of creation. I ask for your forgiveness and from you, present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace and all I do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.+

Assurance of Grace—Scripture tells us if we are “kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, God in Christ has forgiven us”. Rest assured, my friends, our sins are forgiven. 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—God, you have called us to their table where the feast never ends, where love never runs out, where there is always plenty of room. As we gather as the body of Christ to receive the generous gift of this meal, may your Spirit flow freely through this bread and this cup, making holy these simple yet profound elements. May this feast nourish us that we might rise from this table ready to love our neighbors with the fullness of the love we have known in Jesus Christ our Savior. 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—When Jesus called us to love our neighbor, he lifted up the story of the Good Samaritan. The love that the Samaritan showed was not an easy, superficial love from a distance. It was a love that was willing to meet a stranger in the messiness of life, a love that didn't shy away from the hurt and the pain, a love that would go the extra mile so that one in need might be healed. It was a love that was extravagant and generous. This is the love Christ calls us to. This is the kind of ministry our world needs. Because of the extravagant, generous love we found in Christ, let the gifts we bring this day be extravagant and generous, too.

August Benevolence—Our Church's Wider Mission

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God of abundant and extravagant love, we give you thanks for the outpouring of blessings you offer to us, for your presence in our lives, for your persistent care for us. As we bring these gifts before you, consecrate them and use them for your work in this world. May they be signs of our commitment to share your life-giving love with our neighbors. Amen.

Hymn

Now Let Us From This Table Rise, 715

Benediction—As you go forth from this sacred time together, know that you go forth with our generous, extravagant God by your side. As you set out into this week, may you embody God's generosity with your compassion, with your welcome, with your kindness towards others, as you love God and love neighbor.

Postlude

Celestial Theme