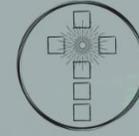


WORSHIP WITH ZION

SUMMER 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

11th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Arietta

Gathering—We’ve come together as the people of God—gathered here on this holy ground, gathered online, gathered at home—in order to seek God’s guidance, God’s care, God’s love. Our generous God provides for our needs and has given us more than enough that we might care for ourselves and our neighbors, too. In response to the outpouring of our God, let us bring our abundant and extravagant praise.

Taizé Song

Prepare the Way of the Lord, 174

A Time of Prayer—God, we thank you for this opportunity to gather as your people in-person, online, and at home. We give you thanks that when we call out to you, you hear our prayers. You give us guidance in the wilderness. You give us sustenance for the journey. You give us friends to help us along the way. God, may we never forget your faithfulness. Hear now, O great and generous God, the prayers of our hearts...

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.

Stories of Generosity

Paula Prange

We Hear God’s Word—*Exodus 16 (CEB)*

Collin Bennington, Greg Miller

16 The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Sin desert, which is located between Elim and Sinai. They set out on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left the land of Egypt. ² The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. ³ The Israelites said to them, “Oh, how we wish that the LORD had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our

fill of bread. Instead, you've brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I'm going to make bread rain down from the sky for you. The people will go out each day and gather just enough for that day. In this way, I'll test them to see whether or not they follow my Instruction. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they measure out what they have collected, it will be twice as much as they collected on other days." ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you will see the LORD's glorious presence, because your complaints against the LORD have been heard. Who are we? Why blame us?" ⁸ Moses continued, "The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning because the LORD heard the complaints you made against him. Who are we? Your complaints aren't against us but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole Israelite community, 'Come near to the LORD, because he's heard your complaints.'" ¹⁰ As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, ¹² "I've heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³ In the evening a flock of quail flew down and covered the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" They didn't know what it was.

Moses said to them, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Collect as much of it as each of you can eat, one omer per person. You may collect for the number of people in your household.'" ¹⁷ The Israelites did as Moses said, some collecting more, some less. ¹⁸ But when they measured it out by the omer, the ones who had collected more had nothing left over, and the ones who had collected less had no shortage. Everyone collected just as much as they could eat. ¹⁹ Moses said to them, "Don't keep any of it until morning." ²⁰ But they didn't listen to Moses. Some kept part of it until morning, but it became infested with worms and stank. Moses got angry with them. ²¹ Every morning they gathered it, as much as each person could eat. But when the sun grew hot, it melted away.

²² On the sixth day the people collected twice as much food as usual, two omers per person. All the chiefs of the community came and told Moses. ²³ He said to them, “This is what the LORD has said, ‘Tomorrow is a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. But you can set aside and keep all the leftovers until the next morning.’” ²⁴ So they set the leftovers aside until morning, as Moses had commanded. They didn’t stink or become infested with worms. ²⁵ The next day Moses said, “Eat it today, because today is a Sabbath to the LORD. Today you won’t find it out in the field. ²⁶ Six days you will gather it. But on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be nothing to gather.”

²⁷ On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather bread, but they found nothing. ²⁸ The LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to obey my commandments and instructions? ²⁹ Look! The LORD has given you the Sabbath. Therefore, on the sixth day he gives you enough food for two days. Each of you should stay where you are and not leave your place on the seventh day.” ³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ The Israelite people called it manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and tasted like honey wafers. ³² Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Let an omer of it be kept safe for future generations so that they can see the food that I used to feed you in the desert when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’”

³³ Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar, and put one full omer of manna in it. Then set it in the LORD’s presence, where it should be kept safe for future generations.” ³⁴ Aaron did as the LORD commanded Moses, and he put it in front of the covenant document for safekeeping. ³⁵ The Israelites ate manna for forty years, until they came to a livable land. They ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. (³⁶ An omer is one-tenth of an ephah.)

Meditation

Enough

Song

Now Thank We All Our God, 14

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Like manna from heaven, God pours out blessings into our lives, providing for us what we need. In this wondrous world that God has created, there is enough to go around. May the gifts we bring this day be used for loving our neighbors, for feeding the hungry, for healing the broken, for sharing God’s light.

August Benevolence—Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God, you provide for us in generous ways. Help us to embody your generosity through our very lives. Help us to build your kingdom and create a world where all have what they need and none has to go without. Receive these gifts, bless them, multiply them, and use them for your work. With gratitude and thanksgiving we pray, Amen.

Song

He's Got the Whole World, 80

Benediction—Through the wilderness of life, God's got you. In your time of need, God's care overflows. When you don't know the path ahead, our generous God is there to guide you. Go forth knowing that God's extravagant, abundant love is always with you. Go in peace to serve and enrich the world around you. Amen.

Postlude

Moderato Pomposo