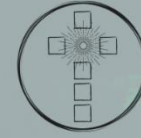


WORSHIP WITH ZION

SUMMER 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

In the Cathedral

Gathering—We gather to worship our God this day, not because we must but because we may. We bring to God our gifts, not because we are obliged but because we are grateful for all our generous God has done. We sing our praise not for our own glory but so that our wondrous God may be glorified. Let us worship.

A Time of Prayer—God, as we come before you in worship this day, we bring to you our every need, knowing that you are a God who hears our prayers and sustains us in faith. As the saints of old gathered together in this community of faith, so, too, do we gather here and now to continue on with the work you have set before us. We thank you, God, that so generously you have poured out the abundance of your love and your strength into this ministry and into our lives. Enrich our worship with your steadfast presence and help us to recognize that every good gift comes from above...

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

Michelle Van Dyke

We Hear God's Word—*James 1:1-12 (NRSV)*

Paula Prange

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greetings.

2 My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; ⁴and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. ⁶But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; ^{7, 8}for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

9 Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, ¹⁰and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. ¹¹For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away.

12 Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Meditation

Ask in Faith, Live in Faith

Song

As Saints of Old Their First Fruits Brought, 570

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—When we ask, our generous God provides in ways we sometimes don't even fully understand. For generous God has been providing for our ministry at Zion through our faithful and generous members and friends, through saints of old and through saints of today. The gifts you bring today allow us to carry out the mission God has placed before us. Let us bring our gifts today with joy and with cheer as a sign of our commitment to the building of God's kingdom.

We do ask that you continue to remember our General Fund as you discern the gifts you are called to bring. We recently had several smaller repairs and fees come up at the parsonage that added up to almost \$4,500. This and other expenses have put a big strain on our budget this summer.

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

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God, we thank you for the generosity that has been brought before you this day. Receive our humble offerings that you might use them to continue the work of your kingdom through our ministry here at Zion United Church of Christ. With gratitude we lift up those who give and ask for your blessings upon them. Amen.

Song

We Are the Church, 550

Benediction—Ours is a God who gives generously and ungrudgingly. Ours is a God who lifts up the lowly and who offers the crown of life. This is the God who goes with you this day and every day to love you, sustain you, and redeem you. Knowing this truth, go in peace to serve and enrich God's beloved. Amen.

Postlude

Into His Courts with Praise