

WORSHIP WITH ZION

FALL 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

World Communion Sunday

Prelude

Spirit of God

Gathering—We gather as God’s people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity. Let us love each other as God loves us beautifully and wonderfully made in God’s image. We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God. Let us open our hearts to God’s spirit of love and unity. We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today. Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God’s creation.+

Gathering Song

Come Away from Rush and Hurry, 655

A Time of Prayer— Lord, open our eyes to see the beauty in each person we meet. Help us freely share your love with all your creation. We give thanks for beautifying your creation and for making a diverse world. Help us to be kind, compassionate, and loving to all. We thank you, O Lord, for allowing us to grow in our welcome and learn about other cultures as we share your amazing grace and love with each other and the world.+

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.

Exploring God’s Word for All Ages

How Many Countries?

We Hear God’s Word—*Philippians 2:1-13 (NRSV)*

Greg Miller

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Meditation

How Far God's Love Extends

Hymn

One Bread, One Body, 689

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's table is so big and wide that it reaches across the whole, big, wider world we live in, and at this table a place is set for you. Join

us as we gather at the table with our siblings near and far, united as one by Christ's love.

A Prayer for Transformation— Lord Jesus, we confess we have been dishonest in our walk with you. We have not treated others with respect and acceptance and have not cared for the least of these as you have called us to do. We acknowledge that too many times, we have taken the effortless way to our benevolence and have mistreated those in need and with judgment. We ask your forgiveness for all we have done that is not pleasing to you, Oh Lord. We ask your mercy on us. Amen!+

Assurance of Grace—Jesus has already paid for your transgressions, and we are free because Jesus Christ, our Savior, has made His grace accessible to us. People of God, your 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 of all creation and all people, we gather at this table with your beloved and with Christ by our sides. It is a gift to partake of this holy meal, and we pray that your Spirit might bless this bread and this cup that it might nurture our spirits and reveal to us the wonders of your grace. 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—God, we open our hearts to give generous of the abundant blessings we have received from you. All that we have comes from you; therefore, we give our offerings and tithes in gratitude for all you have done for us.+

October Benevolence—Global Ministries

Doxology

We Give Thanks— Holy One, we ask that you bless these offerings and tithes so they can multiply to be a blessing for our community, our mission, and worldwide. Accept our offerings and tithes, O God, as a testimony of your goodness in our lives. Amen!+

Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians, 595

Benediction—God's love surrounds you, Jesus, peace engulfs you. And the Holy Spirit accompany you, as you go forth into the World, to love and service all God's people. Amen.+

Postlude

Alleluia