

WORSHIP WITH ZION

FALL 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

Reign of Christ Sunday

Prelude

Shepherd of Love

Gathering— God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper, and Shepherd. Bless God’s name. God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God’s name. God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer, and Friend. Bless God’s name!+

A Psalm

Psalm 95:1-7a (NRSV)

¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock
of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with
songs of praise!

³ For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his
also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have
formed.

⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD,
our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his
voice!

Gathering Song

Gather Us In, 649

A Time of Prayer— God who cares. We flourish in your compassion. You search for us and find us. You, Holy One, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. Be present among us as we praise your name, bring our burdens, and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do.+

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.

Bell Choir

A Jubilant Peal

Exploring God's Word for All Ages*Faith in Action*

What does faith in action look like to you? In Matthew 25, Jesus declares that, ultimately, how we put our faith into action is what matters most.

We Hear God's Word—Matthew 25:31-46*Vivian Thomas*

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." 37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" 40 And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." 44 Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" 45 Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Meditation*Christ for All People***Hymn***God of Grace, and God of Glory, 569***We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

Invitation—In Ephesians 1:18, the Apostle Paul prays that, "You may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints." God's gifts cannot be limited to the material

although they include the material. God's riches exceed our hopes and expectations when we recognize the glory of the kingdom. Let us acknowledge the reign of God as we share the abundance of this glorious inheritance and return a portion to support the ministry of Christ's church in the world and among the community of believers.+

November Benevolence—Our Church's Wider Mission

Doxology

We Give Thanks—Gracious God, thank you for the gifts we have and the blessing of sharing. Use our gifts for your glory and to meet the needs and hopes of your kingdom. Amen.+

Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians, 595

Benediction— As you go, may you recognize God in the stranger. May you extend hospitality and care to your neighbor. And may you trust in the reign of God forever. Amen.+

Postlude

Recessional in B Flat