



WORSHIP WITH ZION

Summer 2024



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

The 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Poem

Gathering—We gather here to worship God, whose steadfast love endures forever. We gather surrounded by God’s Holy Spirit, who encourages us to walk faithfully with Christ. Praise be to God, whose goodness and mercy fill our days. Praise be to God, whose ways lead to peace and justice.~

****Hymn**

Step by Step (3x), 494

Prayer—God of abundant life, you want the best for your people around the globe. You bring healing, wholeness, and new life to all your children. On this day, may our eyes be open to the presence of Christ in one another. May our ears be open to the needs of our community. May our hands be open to serve the forgotten. And may our hearts be open to receive your Holy Spirit along this journey of faith. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray.~

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—Unlikely Friends

We Hear God’s Word—James 2:1-17 (NRSVUE)

2 My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. 2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here in a good place, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit by my footstool,” 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God

chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into the courts? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹ For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but you murder, you have become a transgressor of^[a] the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Meditation

Unlikely Friends

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds, 393

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—The Lord is Creator of all and the Giver of every good gift. Let us offer to God a portion of these gifts, that all needs may be met, and that all people may come to know the grace and joy of God.~

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald—We collected 18.5 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House! Thank you, Zion and friends!

September Benevolence—Horizon House

*****Doxology**

We Give Thanks—Gracious God, thank you for these gifts. We offer them to you and ask that you bless them, that all may have food, clothing, and shelter. We also offer you our very lives, asking that you bless us and use us, that all

may come to know your steadfast love and your unending grace. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.~

Hymn

God Be with You, 716

Benediction—As you leave this place, remember to walk in God’s ways. Remember to dwell in the goodness of God. Remember to be faithful. May peace be upon you this day and always. Amen.~

Postlude

Postludium