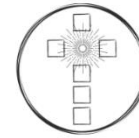




# WORSHIP WITH ZION

## Autumn 2024



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

*The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

### **Prelude**

*Meditation*

### **Gathering**

We gather to listen to the voice of Jesus say, “Come, follow me!” But will you follow when Jesus also calls you to release the hold wealth has on you? **We want to follow Jesus anywhere he leads...**

We gather to remember all that God has taught us through scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. But what about when we have to put what we know into action? **We want to follow Jesus anywhere he leads...**

We gather to live into God’s economy of abundance, recognizing the riches of the prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness that surround us. But what about when the world tempts us back into scarcity?

**We want to follow Jesus anywhere he leads...**

We gather to shine as a beacon of a new way of living where following Jesus means sharing in God’s abundant gifts together. But will you keep shining when others try to pull you astray, putting the pursuit of wealth before the pursuit of God?

**We want to follow Jesus anywhere he leads...~**

### **\*\*Hymn**

*O, How I Love Jesus, 109*

**Prayer**—God of infinite patience and wisdom, we come to you with so many things that claim our time, our energy, our resources, our very lives. We are easily drawn away from serving you by the enticements of the world for wealth, ease, and comfort. Just like the young man in the scriptures, we are owned by our possessions, held captive by our treasures. You continue to offer to us healing and hope. You seek to transform our lives from captivity to freedom in witness and service. We look at the world in which there is so very much warfare and strife, anger and hatred, and we easily become overwhelmed by the needs and the stresses. Help us to place our lives and our trust in you, knowing that with your help, many wonderful things can be accomplished which will provide hope and peace for others and ourselves. Give us courage and strength to truly be your disciples.=

**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.

**Choir**

*How Great Thou Art/Majesty*

### **Staff Appreciation**

Organist and Choir Director: Martha Main

Bell Choir Director: Vivian Thomas

Custodians: Greg and Anita Law

Office Manager: Michael Brown

Pastor: Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan

### **Gifts of Appreciation**

**Zion Mission Statement:** United by Christ's loving embrace, a welcoming light in an unsure world, we serve and enrich the community and provide a safe gathering space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and self-exploration.

**A Blessing for Our Staff:** Most gracious God, we give you thanks for the staff of Zion whom you have blessed us with. We lift each of them up to you in gratitude for the ways that they serve and enrich your church and the community around us. Each of them offers their talents and time, their dedication and their commitment, their very selves to this work. What incredible gifts to your church! We celebrate that they have answered your call on their lives to do this ministry. We ask now for your blessings to be poured out upon them as they continue to answer that call. May your Spirit be with them in their work and in their service. Amen.

### **We Hear God's Word—Mark 10:17-31 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>17</sup> As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup> Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” <sup>20</sup> He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money<sup>[a]</sup> to the poor, and you will have treasure in

heaven; then come, follow me.”<sup>22</sup> When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”<sup>24</sup> And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is<sup>[b]</sup> to enter the kingdom of God!<sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”<sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another,<sup>[c]</sup> “Then who can be saved?”<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

<sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news<sup>[d]</sup><sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.<sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

## **Meditation**

*Roadblocks to the Kingdom*

## **Hymn**

*The Summons, 350*

## **We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**—Jesus challenged the rich man to sell what he had and give to the poor. He challenges us today to be generous in our giving, trusting God’s provision for our lives.+

**Opportunities to Serve:** Hygiene Kits

**October Benevolence**—Neighbors in Need

### **\*\*Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—Generous God, we bring you our gifts today. We recognize that all we have comes from you. May these gifts bring hope to places of pain and need. We want to be followers of Jesus, who leads us from greed into service. We offer ourselves. Amen.+

## **Hymn**

*Christ Is Alive, 312*

**Benediction**—Go and follow Jesus on the pathway of love. Share the good news of mercy and grace. Dare to let go. Find the courage and see what adventures God has

in store for you. May the blessing of the Holy One give you courage, for with God,  
nothing is impossible.+

## **Postlude**

*Andante Alla Breve*

+Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 226). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition. ~Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries, July 2024*. =Written by Nancy C. Townley on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/10/pastoral-prayer-mark-10.html>.