



ORDINARY TIME



Serve & Enrich
**Zion United Church
of Christ**

Our Mission: 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.

Our Vision: Transforming and caring for our community through Christ's love.

Pastor: Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan

Organist: Martha Main

Bell Choir Director: Vivian Thomas

Office Manager: Michael Law

Custodians: Anita and Greg Law

Scripture Reader: Vivian Thomas

Tech Steward: Greg Miller



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July 5, 2026 – Freeing Jesus Series: Jesus as Savior

Prelude

Gathering—A rich young man asked Jesus, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus told him to sell all he had and give the money to the poor. Jesus said the righteous will be welcomed into eternal life, but who are the righteous? The ones who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison. May Jesus, our Savior, lead us on this path to eternal life, and in our worship, may we come to know that for God all things are possible.

*Hymn

Shout to the Lord, 94

Prayer—Jesus come among us and be real for us as we gather today. Save us from our aimlessness and sin. Save us from our limited understandings—even those we have of you as Savior.~ Teach us to follow in your ways, serving as you served, loving as you loved, seeing you in the least of these and the stranger among us.

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 Together—In both of these scriptures, Jesus shares his understanding of what is required for eternal life. What do you notice about what Jesus says? Does Jesus’ teaching align with your understanding of salvation? Why or why not?

Scripture

Mark 10:17-27 (NRSVUE)

¹⁷ 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?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ 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.’ ” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ 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!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ 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.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another,^[1] “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSVUE)

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 who 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 brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to

those at his left hand, ‘You who 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.”

Reflection

Jesus as Savior

- Bass writes, “The world ‘salvation’ comes from the Latin *salvus*, which originally referred to being made whole, uninjured, safe, or in good health. *Salvus* was not about being taken out of this life; it was about this life being healed. In this sense, *salvus* perfectly describes the biblical vision of God’s justice and mercy, peace, and well-being, comfort and equanimity. This is the dream of a saved earth—one where oppression ends, mercy reigns, violence ceases to exist, and all life safely under their own ‘vine and fig tree.’ Jesus the Savior is the one who brings this dream to reality: he is peacemaker, light of justice, and the good physicians. Jesus saves in all these ways as more” (*Freeing Jesus*, p. 76-77).
- What do you make of this ancient and Biblical understanding of salvation?

Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness, 93

We Gather at the Table

Set Your Place at the Table—*For those worshipping with us at home, please use whatever you have on hand to represent the bread and the cup. For those worshipping with us in-person, communion cups are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, along with goldfish crackers for children.*

Our Invitation—Jesus meets us wherever we are on life’s journey, calling out to us in every moment to experience the fullness of grace and new life in him. He leads us on a path of a life transformed. Today, may we find healing and wholeness, forgiveness and grace, strength and mercy at Christ’s table.

We Confess our Brokenness—Jesus, we confess that so often we fail to follow you. We refuse to see you in the least of these. We put our love of power and possession above our love for you and your beloved. Heal us in our brokenness. Transform us with your mercy. Save us with your grace. Amen.

Assurance of Grace—Siblings in Christ, there is nothing in all of creation that can separate us from the love of God made known to us in Christ, our Friend, our Teacher, our Savior. Forgiveness is freely offered this day. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Words of Institution—We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks..., broke it, and give it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.`

Blessing Our Meal—In this bread and in this cup, O God, make real for us the presence of Jesus in our midst. Pour out your Spirit that we might know the life offered here at Christ’s table. May this meal nourish us and strengthen us as we care for the least of these and do your work. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup

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—Jesus invites us into a life of generosity as we serve our neighbors near and far. Let us offer to God the gifts of our lives and our treasure that they might be used for the good of all.

July Benevolence

Pastoral Emergency Fund, Indiana-Kentucky Conference

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—God, through these gifts, may we at Zion United Church of Christ serve the least of these among us. May we offer light and hope and love through this ministry that others might know, too, new life in Christ, here, now, and eternally. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed Assurance, 426

Benediction—As you go forth this week to follow in the ways of Jesus, know that you go forth, not alone, but with Jesus, your Savior, ready to guide your way. Go forth to serve and enrich with the love of Jesus. Amen.

Postlude

*If you are comfortably able and so called, you're invited to stand. ~Cathedral of Hope *Freeing Jesus*
Study Guide by Dr. Greg Smith, sowhatfaith.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, after worship** – 1st Sunday Fellowship
- **Wednesday** – OFFICE CLOSED (Holiday make-up day)
- **Wednesday, 6 pm** – Pastor Parish Relations (Zoom)
- **Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm** – Scout Cleaning Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUMMER SLOW DOWN**—Our council and ministry teams are working at keeping our July calendar as light as possible. We've been busy at Zion, and our volunteers deserve a little break.
- **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES**—We are so grateful to those who were able to participate in our Strategic Plan Retreat. We focused on two areas of the plan that still need our attention—the “Zion United Community Center” and “Welcoming Families and New Generations.” At our Congregational Meeting on June 28, we proposed forming a task force for each of these areas. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to be on the task forces for these areas. God is up to some exciting things as we enter the fifth and final year of this plan. If you have any questions about this work, please see a council member.
 - **COMMUNITY CENTER TASK FORCE**— Based on your feedback, we are scaling back our work on the Community Center to focus on updating two specific areas to prepare for greater community use, the Fellowship Hall and the Conference Room. The task force will help determine updates needed in these rooms and will offer clarity for our rental process. The task force includes Kaylee Gephart-Kile, Kristen Gephart, Michael Law, and Greg Miller.
 - **OPEN AND AFFIRMING TASK FORCE**—At our retreat, we listened carefully to the young adults in our church as they shared with us what is vital to connecting with new generations. We listened to everyone as folks shared from their heart about how important it is for Zion to be a safe place that truly welcomes all. The big takeaway was that Zion needs to be clear in our welcome. Conversation at the retreat focused on what it would take for Zion to become Open and Affirming

(ONA) as we widen our welcome and embrace of God's beloved. What does it mean to be ONA? It means that a church has made a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. The ONA Task Force will help lead us through a discernment process as together we listen for God's call for our ministry and what it would take to ensure the LGBTQAI+ community is welcome here. The task force includes Kaylee Gephart-Kile, Kristen Gephart, Barb Huffman, Michael Law, Nathan Law, and Becky Osher.

SERVE

- **JULY BENEVOLENCE: Indiana Kentucky Conference Pastoral Emergency Fund**—Our church leaders are always there for us. The Indiana Kentucky Conference Pastoral Emergency Fund ensures we are there for them when crisis strikes. This vital fund provides urgent financial aid, salary continuation, and an emergency guest pastor for active and retired clergy, lay staff, and their families during unexpected hardships. Please consider making a financial gift to lift up those who serve our congregations.
- **BLOOD DRIVE**—Save the date for our next Red Cross Blood Drive, scheduled for July 23 from 12-6 pm. Registration is now open for donors. Help us spread the word as we join this community partner to help save lives.

ENRICH

- **SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES**—Join us for our summer worship series. Worship will be a bit more conversation this summer as we explore themes from *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* by Diana Butler Bass. You do not need to read the book to be part of this worship series or our conversations.
- **1st SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**—The Care Team invites you to join us after worship this Sunday for fellowship, donuts, and pretzels. Catch up with your friends, meet some new folks, and enjoy some time in community.
- **3rd SUNDAY LUNCH**—Join us at Tian Fu on Sunday, July 19. RSVP to Becky Osher if you plan to attend. The restaurant opens at 12 pm, so no rush to get over there after worship. Tian Fu offers a wide variety of Asian cuisine, so there's something for everyone.