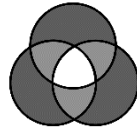


Rev. Beth Gedert – Lead Pastor
Rev. Kara Jones – Youth Pastor
Brian White – Music Director



September 3, 2023
1st Sunday in the Season of Creation

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PRELUDE: Brian White

Joyful music leads us into God's presence and prepares our hearts and minds for worship.

WELCOME: Rev. Beth Gedert

OPENING HYMN: "God the Sculptor of the Mountains" The Faith We Sing #2060

God the sculptor of the mountains, God, the miller of the sand,

God the jeweler of the heavens, God the potter of the land:

You the womb of all creation, we are formless, shape us now.

God the nuisance to the Pharaoh, God the cleaver of the sea,

God the pillar in the darkness, God the beacon of the free:

You are fount of all deliv'rance, we are sightless; lead us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard, God the planter of the wheat,

God the reaper of the harvest, God the source of all we eat:

You are host at every table, we are hungry; feed us now.

God the unexpected infant, God the calm, determined youth,

God the table-turning prophet, God the resurrected truth:

You are present every moment, we are searching; meet us now.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: *A formal and mutual invitation to move into the worship experience.*

One: Out of darkness came light; and the power of God was revealed,

All: In running wave and flowing air, in quiet earth and shining stars.

One: Out of the dust came life; and the image of God was revealed,

All: In human face and gentle heart, in warmth of flesh and depth of soul.

One: Out of justice came freedom; and the wisdom of God was revealed,

**All: In the need to grow and the will to love, in the chance to know and
the power to choose.**

One: And God looked at the creation,

All: And behold, it was very good.

COMMUNITY PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER: *(In Unison)*

God of Life, You love the universe into being, Let us give praise. You embrace the world without distinction. Let us do the same. You call humanity to make flesh Your body.

Let us live accordingly. You forgive all trespasses. Let us learn Your ways.

You grace us unconditionally. Let us receive humbly. You are our hope. Let us remember.

These are our prayers, which we lift up in the name of our beloved Jesus, who taught us to

pray: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND SERVE: *You may leave cash or checks in the offering plate on the hospitality table, or give online using the QR code on the back of this bulletin. We are grateful for your generosity.*

OFFERTORY: Brian White

DOXOLOGY #137

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia.

Praise God for all that Love has done: Creator, Christ, and Spirit – One.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Extravagantly Generous God, all good gifts around us come from you. As a community, we bring you an offering of our gifts and of ourselves. May it and we be used to strengthen this church as we join with others to reveal your liberating reign: the nonviolent Kingdom of God, in which all are welcomed, restored, and given a mission. Amen.

MEDITATION HYMN: “Spirit of God” The Faith We Sing #2117 verses 1 & 5

Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,

Blow as you always do; create us anew.

Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,

Held in your hands, borne on your wings. Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (repeat)

Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,

The life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.

Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,

Held in your hands, borne on your wings. Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (repeat)

SERMON AND REFLECTION: Rev. Beth Gedert - Genesis 1:1-2:3; Psalm 19:1-14

We root our teachings in ancient insights from the Bible. We listen with our minds and respond with our hearts to what the Scripture means in today’s world.

RESPONSE -- *One: This is the Word of God for all people. All: Thanks be to God.*

THE LORD’S SUPPER

CONFESSION

ONE: Most Merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

All: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you. **All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts! **All: We lift them up to God!**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

One: Source of All, you created a planet full of life ... and so we join with all creation to praise you!

All: Holy, holy, holy! God of Love and Majesty, the whole universe shouts your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS: *Everyone is welcome at this communion table. Children may partake at their parent's discretion. Wine is red; juice is clear. Gluten-free bread is marked.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: 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, so that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love, making your universal Church a rainbow of light in an uncertain world. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN: "Let All Things Now Living" The Faith We Sing # 2008

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who guides us and leads to the end of our days.

God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

The law God enforces, the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine;

The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,

The deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise,

'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving: To God in the highest hosanna and praise!

BENEDICTION: Rev. Beth Gedert

POSTLUDE: *It is our custom to be seated during the postlude. We hope that you leave today feeling connected to Christ and people, and ready to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship after the service.*

Liturgist: Rev. Kara Jones - Centering for Worship by Graham Maule and John Bell, Iona Community.

Community Prayer by Amy Echeverria, Columbans International.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cards for Signing: Each week, there will be at least one card at the greeter's table in the narthex for you to sign for our homebound Legacy members and for others as well. Please be sure to stop by and sign these cards each week.

Jail Ministry: Remember to take a prayer request from people impacted by the justice system in the Delaware County Jail. Take it with you to pray through the week. If you want to get involved in our jail ministry, talk to Di Felice.

A weekly Zion 9-Hole Golf Outing is going on at Hidden Valley Golf Course, Delaware, Tuesdays at 5:00 pm, weather permitting. If interested contact Steven at (704) 651-0519.

Our Mission

Zion UCC is an Open & Affirming congregation with diverse beliefs whose mission is to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

Our Open and Affirming Covenant (2018)

As the people of God who gather at Zion United Church of Christ,
We make a solemn covenant with one another:

We will extravagantly welcome everyone who enters here.

We welcome every race. We welcome every gender. We welcome every age.

We welcome every expression of faith. We welcome every marital status.

We welcome every sexual orientation. We welcome every political party.

We welcome every type of body. We will not be divided by social issues.

We will not judge as the world does: by health, wealth, or skills.

We will not allow our past to define our future. We will transcend all labels.

We will always seek to affirm one another with loving hearts and open minds.

We will follow in the way of Christ Jesus, loving and being loved by both God and neighbor,
with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

We will love one another for exactly who we are.

(The original Statement of Welcome was adopted by the congregation in August 2008.)

Zion Church Council: President Alan Cory, Vice President Sue Frederick

Secretary Melissa Petreaca, Treasurer Mike Tucker,

Members at Large: Barbara Byers, Kelsey Fox, Mike Newcomb, Steve Robertson, Jodi Zellers

Zion United Church of Christ: 51 W. Central Ave ~ Delaware OH 43015

740.362.6691 - zionucc.org ~ facebook.com/UCCDelaware

Give online:
Or in the offering plates
on the hospitality tables.



Welcome guests!
Let us know you were here.
We won't spam or bother you.

