

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Associate Pastor
Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director
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Administrator
Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

November 19, 2023

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Thanksgiving Sunday

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message during the 10:30 AM service, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THANK GOD FROM A TO Z LITANY¹

L: For apples, astronauts, aunts and ancestors who make us who we are,
C: We thank you, God.

L: For books, bathrooms, brothers, and Ben Franklin's inventions,
C: We thank you, God.

L: For cats, cake, clocks, and cities worldwide,
C: We thank you, God.

L: For daddies, dolls, doors, and dogs,
C: We thank you, God.

L: For eggs, elephants, eels, and everyone everywhere,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For food, faith, friendship, and firefighters,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For grandparents, guitars, geese, and God,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For houses, hippos, honesty, and happiness,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For ice cream, igloos, and bible people like Isaac,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For Jesus, juice, and jokes,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For kids, kites, karate, and koalas,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For love, luck, and lemonade,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For mommies, monkey bars, mermaids and movies,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For noses, nuts, and naps,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For owls, octopus, oceans, and the color orange,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For pizza, pastors, pies, and the platypus,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For quilts, quails, and quiet times,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For rock and roll, rollercoasters, rhinos and ranch dressing,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For sisters, showers, Sundays, and superheroes who keep us safe,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For turkey, teachers, transportation, and talking to friends,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For unicorns, uncles, umbrellas, and umbilical cords,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For vegetables, video games, vacuums and vacations,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For the world God creates, walruses, warmth, and water,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For x-rays, xylophones, and eXtra loving Mt. Zion kids,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For the color yellow, yaks, yo-yos, and you,

C: We thank you, God.

L: For zookeepers, zebras, and all our Mt. ZION family,

C: We thank you, God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Creator God,

C: from the tiniest speck to the grandest mountain, from the rolling sea to the limitless universe, you are with us. In all areas we see marks of your creative power and give you thanks. Help us to take time to remove ourselves from the rush and busyness of everyday living, to look around and truly see the beauty. And having seen the outer beauty of this world, help us to see the inner beauty of all of your children. In your most heavenly name we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 421 NCH** (see p. 6)

We Gather Together

***LITANY OF CONFESSION²**

L: We fill our lives with the fear of scarcity, assuming there is not enough money, time, patience or love. We turn away when a stranger asks for nourishment, claiming there isn't enough even for ourselves.

C: Forgive us when we doubt your abundance and ignore the possibilities in what we have been given.

L: We often sit with arms crossed and fists clenched, crying out that you have turned away and left us empty handed.

C: Forgive us when we reject your abundance and neglect the possibilities in what we have been given.

L: We easily give thanks for the good things in life, turning away from those which lead us to deeper community or second-guessing blessings as too good to be true.

C: Open our eyes to the wonders that surround us. Help us surrender to the loving embrace that enfolds us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE 425 NCH (see p. 7 v 1&2)

For the Fruit of All Creation

ALL SING: For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor God's will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 150 (CEB)

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Psalm 150

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:31-35 (CEB)

MESSAGE

HYMN NO. NO. 422 NCH (black hymnal see p.8)

Come, O Thankful People, Come

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 425 (see p. 7 v 3)

For the Fruit of All Creation

ALL SING: For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 419 NCH** (see p. 9)

Now Thank We All our God

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

References

¹**Thanksgiving: A to Z** is inspired by Steven J. Brown *Worship Ideas You Can Use 2015* litany, and written with the help of our Sunday Funday on November 12, 2023. Credit for gratitude goes to Jack Bicher, James Daugherty, Freddie Northridge, Nova Ramsey, Tobias Rhinehart, Elliot Stine, and our youth group helper Eloise Rhinehart.

²**The Confession: Always Enough** was written for “Stone Soup”, a liturgy from the Seekers Church: A Christian Community, in November 2000. [Thanksgiving 2000: Stone Soup – Seekers Church](#) and accessed on November 13, 2023.

Thank you to Becky Hester, Nancy & Barry Schwartz, Barb Stebbins, Norma & Charlie Hull for serving on the welcome teams this morning. Thank you to Paul Ramsey, Deb & Jack Herlocker for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Brenda Beyer and Stella Fletcher for serving as liturgists this morning. Thank you to the praise team for providing special music and leading the hymns.

We Gather Together

arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us
3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri -

5

bless - ing; he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make
join - ing, or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di -
- um-phant, and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt

9

known. The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -
- vine; so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were
be. Let thy con-gre - ga - tion e - scape trib - u -

13

- tress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name he for -
win - ning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all
- la - tion; thy name be ev - er praised! O

16

- gets not his own.
glo - ry be thine!
Lord, make us free!

For the Fruit of All Creation

Fred Pratt Green, arr. Ralph Vaughan William
 (c) 1970 Hope Publishing Company Arr. PD in the USA

$\text{♩} = 80$
 Piano 

1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is
 3. For the har-vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to

4 

God. For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to
 done. In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is
 God. For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to

8 

God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while
 done. In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry
 God. For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that

12 

we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing,
 and de - spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing,
 still con - found us, Most of all that love has found us,

15 

thanks be to God.
 God's will is done.
 thanks be to God.

Come, O Thankful People, Come

Henry Alford, 1810-1871

George J. Elvey

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Come, O thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of
 2. All the bless - ings of the field, all the stores the
 3. These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all

4
 har - vest home; all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter
 gar - dens yield, all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ended 'neath the
 bless - ings flow; and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and

8
 storms be - gin; God our Ma - ker does pro - vide for our wants to
 sum - mer sky, All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the
 sol - emn praise. Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of

12
 be sup - plied; come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of
 smil - ing land, all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er -
 har - vest home; come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of

16
 har - vest home.
 - flow - ing stores.
 har - vest home.

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinkart, 1586-1649; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

adapt. by Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Piano 

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and
2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be
3. All praise and thanks to God our Mak-er now be

5 

voic - es, Who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re -
near us, With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to
giv - en, To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est

9 

- joic - es, Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our
cheer us, And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per -
heav - en, The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a -

13 

way with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to -
- plexed, and free us from all ills, in this world and the
- dore, for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er -

17 

- day.
next.
- more.