

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ  
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Acting Pastor  
Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church  
Administrator  
Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

January 28, 2024

8:00 & 10:30 AM

***Theophanies of Light: Dazzled by God's Presence  
Blinding Vision***

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, 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**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE**

*In Silence and Peace*

by Lawton

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Welcome—this space is holy ground.

**C: Here we will stop and praise our God.**

L: Listen—this space is holy ground.

**C: Here we will open our ears to hear God's Word.**

L: Be alert—this space is holy ground.

**C: Here we watch for God's presence. Blind us by your light, and blaze before us a trail lead by your vision, O God.**

L: This place for us is Holy Ground. God meets us here. Here, God receives our praise. Here, God is listening to the yearning of our hearts. Here, God makes Godself known to us through the light of love we share. Let us listen and watch for God's guidance as together we praise our God!

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 2128 FWS** (see below)

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

## Come and Find the Quiet Center

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

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♩ = 150

Piano

1. Come and find the quiet center in the  
 2. Si-lence is a friend who claims us, cools the  
 3. In the Spir - it let us tr - av - el, o - pen

4

crowd - ed life we lead, find the room for hope to  
 heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and  
 to each oth - er's pain, let our loves and fears un -

7

en - ter, find the frame where we are freed; Clear the  
 na - mes us, knows our be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing  
 - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain: There's a

10

cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can  
 space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to sh - ow the  
 place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for hear - t to

13

see all the things that real - ly ma - ter, be at  
 sun, rais - ing cour - age when we're shri - nk - ing, find - ing  
 care, in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is

16

peace, and sim - ply be.  
 scope for faith be - gun.  
 al - ways room to spare.

**\*TIME OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: We thank you God,

**C:** that you know what it is to be human fragile and vulnerable, searching for ways to exist in dangerous and complicated times. We thank you that you know the struggles and temptations of living in darkness. And we thank you that you give light to the world. We confess that sometimes it's easier to stay in the shadows, where things can stay hidden, where people can't see our cracks and flaws. Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love. We confess that we have at times brought darkness into the world by our anger, our selfishness, our violence. Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love. We confess that we are sometimes skeptical of light and find it easier to trust its absence. Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love. We know in faith that God restores and renews, and that our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 159 NCH (black hymnal, vs. 1 & 4, see below)

*As With Gladness Those of Old*

**ALL SING:** As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold. As with joy they hailed its light, leading on ward, beaming bright. So, true Morning Star may we, evermore your splendor see.

Holy Jesus, every day, keep us in the narrow way. And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last. Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

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

**SCRIPTURE  
MESSAGE**

*Exodus 3:1-12 (CEB)*

**HYMN NO 532 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

# God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances R. Havergal, 1872

Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

\*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. God, speak to me, that I may speak in  
 2. O lead me, God, that I may lead some  
 3. O fill me with your full-ness, God, your  
 4. O use me, God, use ev - en me just

4

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that  
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and  
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

7

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.  
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.  
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.  
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

## 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

*Let Thy Holy Spirit Guide*

by Combs

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 2237 FWS (see below, vs. 1 & 2)

*As a Fire is Meant for Burning*

## As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

Ruth Duck

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time with a tempo of 80 beats per minute. It consists of five systems of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score ends with a double bar line at the end of the fifth system.

1. As a fire is meant for bur - ning with a  
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; we are  
3. As a green bud in the spring - time is a

4

bright and warm-ing flame, so the church is meant for mis sion, giv - ing  
pil-grims on the way. We are seek-ers; we are giv-ers; we are  
sign of life re - newed, so may we be signs of one ness 'mid earth's

8

glo - ry to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or cus-toms, but to  
ves-sels made of clay. By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac-tions we would  
peo-ples, man - y hues. As a rain - bow lights the heav-ens when a

12

build a bridge of care, we join hands a-cross the na tions, find-ing  
show that Christ is light. In a hum-ble, lis-tening Spir - it we would  
storm is past and gone, may our lives re-reflect the ra dianc e of God's

16

neigh - bors ev - ery - where.  
live to God's de - light.  
new and glo-rious dawn.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 31 NCH (black hymnal, see below)

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

# All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848

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*Refrain*

Piano 

All things bright and beau ti - ful, all crea - tures great and

4 

small, All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them

8 *Verses* 

all. 1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each  
2. The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, the  
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, the

11 

lit - tle bird that sings, God made their glow - ing  
riv - er run - ning by, The sun - set, and the  
pleas - ant sum - mer sun, The ripe fruits in the

14 

col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.  
morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.  
gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

*to Refrain*

**\*BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

*Rondeau*

by Morett

**References**

<sup>1</sup>The Prayer of Confession is written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/> and accessed on 1/16/24 at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2020/01/epiphany-prayer-light-in-darkness.html>

**Volunteers**

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

**8:00 AM Welcome Team Members**

John & Connie Wolfe

**8:00 AM Tech Team**

John Kollasch

**8:00 AM Liturgist**

Tama Allison

**10:30 AM Welcome Team Members**

Tori Everhart, Doris Loucks, & Sarah Shaffer

**10:30 AM Tech Team**

Elaine Bevivino

John Schriver

**10:30 AM Liturgist**

Charlie Hull

**10:30 AM Praise Team**

Andrea Adams

Brenda Beyer

Barb Neff

# NOTES