

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

May 5, 2024

10:30 AM

Outdoor Worship
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Thank you for joining us today at Rocky Ridge Park! It is a gift to praise God within the beauty of nature. If you need to directions to bathrooms or have any questions, please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Isaiah 35:1-10)¹

Pastor (P): Listen—all creation rejoices, can you hear it?

Congregation (C): There is so much noise and chatter, are you sure there is music?

Liturgist (L): Listen—the wilderness and desert are breaking out in song, can you hear it?

C: It's been so long since we've heard a melody of praise.

P: Listen—the crocus blooms with joyful singing, the very mountains join in the refrain.
Can you hear it?

C: We join our voices in hope, worshipping our God who brings forth a new song in the world.

OPENING PRAYER¹

L: As we join our voices in praise, together let us pray,

L: Life-giving God, **C: we are a blessed people. In this moment of worship we pray that you might bless us anew. Give us ears to hear the melodies of praise that fill the world around us. And as we hear the songs, teach us to sing, to dance with abandon, to rejoice in the wonders of your grace. Lead us by your Spirit in the pathways of your overflowing peace, hope, and joy. Amen.**

My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep From Singing)

Robert Lowry, 1869

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♩ = 80

Piano 

1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-
 2. What though my joys and com-forts die? My Sav-ior still is
 3. When ty-rants trem-ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4. I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a-

5 

-ta-tion, I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-
 liv-ing. What though the shad-ows gath-er 'round? A new song Christ is
 ring-ing; When friends re-joice both far and near, how can I keep from
 -bove it; And day by day this path-way smooths, since first I learned to

9 

-a-tion. Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear the mu-sic
 giv-ing. No storm can shake my in-most calm, while to that Rock I'm
 sing-ing? In pris-on cell and dun-geon vile our thoughts to them are
 love it. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er

13 

ring-ing; It finds an ech-o in my soul, how can I keep from sing-ing?
 cling-ing; Since Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?
 wing-ing; When friends by shame are un-de-filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?
 spring-ing; All things are mine since I am Christ's, how can I keep from sing-ing?

***TIME OF CONFESSION²**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Creator God,

C: You have given us a world of beauty, and we have spoiled it. A world to feed us, and so many go hungry. A world of riches, and we are unwilling to share. A world to care for, and we think only of ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, every time your heart is saddened by our selfishness, every time we have no thought for others, no cares but ours. Enable us to see this world as a gift from you that can be shared, and those who live on it as our neighbors. We ask this that your name may be glorified, through the beauty of this world, and the service of our lives. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE

The Story of Creation²
1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31-33 (Easy-to-Read Version)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 28 NCH (see next page)

For the Beauty of the Earth

The offering will be collected during the Hymn of the Day.



For the Beauty of the Earth


Conrad Kocher, 1838

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Piano 

1. For the beau - ty of the earth,
2. For the won - der of each hour
3. For the joy of hu - man love,
4. For the good that love in - spires,

3



for the splen - dor of the skies,
of the day and of the night,
broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
for a world where none ex - clude,

5



For the love which from our birth
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Friends on earth and friends a - bove,
For a faith that nev - er tires,

7



o - ver and a - round us lies, God of all, to
sun and moon and stars of light,
for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

10



you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

By Our Love

by Nockels

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and Dine the Master calleth, come and dine.

C: Come and dine the master calleth, come and dine.

P: He is present at our table all the time.

C: He is present at our table all the time.

P: He who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine

C: He who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine

P: Come and Dine the Master calleth, come and dine.

C: Come and dine the master calleth, come and dine.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: We give thanks for this meal, as together we pray,

C: Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 144 UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL** (see next page)

This is My Father's World

This Is My Father's World

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

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Piano 

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car - ols
3. This is my Fa-ther's world. O let me ne'er for -

5 

ears raise, - get all the that na - ture sings, and the morn - ing light, though the wrong seems round me rings the lil - y white, de - oft so strong, God

8 

mu - sic of the spheres. This is my Fa-ther's world: I
- clare their mak - er's praise. This is my Fa-ther's world: he
is the rul - er yet. This is my Fa-ther's world: why

12 

rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of
shines in all that's fair; in the rust - ling grass I
should my heart be sad? The Lord is King; let the

15 

skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
hear him pass; he speaks to me ev - ery - where.
heav - en's ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad.

***BENEDICTION³**

POSTLUDE

References

¹The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are written by Rev. Nancy J. and posted on wonderings thru life and other such nonsense. <http://ruminari.wordpress.com/2010/12/09/advent-3a-call-to-worship/>

²This re-telling of Genesis 1 is from KAIROS Water Worship Service www.kairoscanada.org and accessed 4/25/24.

³The Benediction was written by Henrietta Stith Andrews, and posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-23.html>

Volunteers

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning! A special thank-you to our Community Life team for planning the church picnic!

Welcome Team Members—Faye Heal, Les & Doris Loucks, John & Connie Wolfe

Liturgist—Freddie Northridge

Offering Helper—Nova Ramsey

Tech Team—George DeMers, John Schriver, & Joe Vacante

Musicians—Hayden Dallam, Denny Daugherty, & Travis Pinci

Worship Choir—Andrea Adams, Tom Bair, Brenda Beyer, Braden Bicher, Lana Fritz, Carol Hartman, Norma Hull, Michael Maletz, Jen Miller, Barb Neff, Paula Strayer

