

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

September 15, 2024

9:45 AM

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Guess Who?: A Series Investigating Key Figures of the Bible

Mt. Zion Bible Detectives: Uncovering the Wonders and Mysteries of the Faith

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 10:30AM 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

WEEKLY CLUES

PRELUDE

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

by Hurd

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: Explorers of the faith, we are invited to delve into God's mysteries.

C: towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

L: Disciples, we accompany Jesus wherever he leads us,

C: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

L: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

C: whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

L: What a gift it is to investigate God's Word together.

C: Let us question the unknowns, give thanksgiving for the certainties, and laugh at the mystery in between.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 2130 (verses. 1-2, 4, FWS see below)**


The Summons

The Summons

John Bell

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?___
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?___
3. Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?___
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?___
5. Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name. ___

9



___ Will you go where you don't know and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
___ Will you care for cruel and kind and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
___ Will you set the pris-oners free and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
___ Will you quell the fear in - side and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
___ Let me turn and fol - low you and nev-er be the same. ___ In your

18



let my love be shown, ___ will you let my name be known, ___ will you
risk the hos - tile stare ___ should your life at - tract or scare? ___ Will you
kiss the le - per clean, ___ and do such as this un - seen, ___ and ad -
use the faith you've found ___ to re - shape the world a - round, ___ through my
com-pa - ny I'll go ___ where your love and foot-steps show, ___ Thus I'll

26



let my life be grown in you and you in me? ___
let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? ___
- mit to what I mean in you and you in me? ___
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? ___
move and live and grow in you and you in me. ___

***TIME OF CONFESSION²**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Awesome God,

C: when we catch sight of the totality of your claim on our lives; our believing wavers. When we hear the absurdity of your unbreakable covenant with us, we laugh. When we face the foolish wisdom of the looming cross, we suggest an alternative. Meet us in our disbelieving, loving God, move us gently into the deep mystery of faith.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Testimony

by Pace

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 295 NCH (v. 1)

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

ALL SING: I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful their whole lives through, who bravely labored lived and died for the God they loved and knew. And one was a doctor and one was a queen and another a shepherd in pastures green. They were saints of God if you know what I mean God help me to be one too.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Guess Who? Scriptures

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (vs. 1, 3, & 5, see next page)

Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

Laughter Lends Itself to Praise

Daniel Charles Damon

Medieval French Melody

♩ = 80

Piano



1. Laugh - ter lends it - self to praise
2. Laugh - ter bends where laws may break;
3. Laugh - ter leaps in - to the void
4. Laugh - ter comes in spite of pain
5. Laugh - ter lends it - self to praise;

3



bring - ing heal - ing from with - in;	hope will sure - ly
rig - id fact can - not con - tain	half the wis - dom
find - ing on - ly Spir - it there;	shame and fear would
dan - cing ev - en as we mourn;	some - thing dies but
all the love and all the fear,	all the signs that

6



rise a - gain	as laugh - ter lends it - self to praise.
of God's reign,	so laugh - ter bends where laws may break.
nev - er dare	so laugh - ter leaps in - to the void.
some thing's born	for laugh - ter comes in spite of pain.
God is near	say laugh - ter lends it - self to praise.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 423 NCH** (see below)

Great is Your Faithfulness

Great Is Your Faithfulness

William M. Runyan, 1923

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Great is your faith-ful-ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
 2. Sum-mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har-vest,
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace so en - dur-ing,

5
 with you no shad-ow of turn-ing we see. You do not
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours-es a - bove, Join with all
 your own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide. Strength for to -

10
 change, your com - pas-sions they fail not; all of your good-ness for -
 na - ture in man - i - fold wit-ness to your great faith - ful-ness,
 - day and bright hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine with ten

15
 - ev - er will be. Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness!
 mer - cy, and love.
 thou-sand be - side.

21
 Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your

27
 hand has pro - vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

References

¹The Call to Worship is adapted from the writings of Thom Shuman, as posted on his wonderful Lectionary Liturgies blog. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/> and accessed 9/8/24.

²The Prayer of Confession written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on her Liturgies Outside website, and accessed on 9/8/24.

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

Welcome Team Members—Vanessa Bicher & Jennifer Damon

Liturgist— Connie Wolfe

Tech Team—Elaine Bevivino, Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch