



Wednesday Lent Service

Everything [in] Between

7 PM

March 12, 2025

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

March 12, 2025

7:00 PM

Everything [in] Between: Stranger & Neighbor¹
Lent at Mt. Zion

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. 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THEME/POEM¹ *Never Met a Stranger* Rev. Sarah Speed

PRELUDE *Trust and Obey* by Sammis

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

L: God meets us in the night—

C: before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.

L: God meets us in the light—

C: where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.

L: God meets us in between—

C: at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

L: And if God meets us in all those places,

C: then surely God meets us everywhere— at the water’s edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.

L: We are not alone. God is all around. Let us worship the God of everything.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 581 UM HYMNAL**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

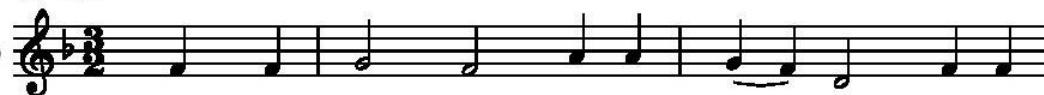
Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Albert F. Bayly, 1961

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice bore the
2. Still your chil - dren wan-der home - less; still the
3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your
4. Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in

4



weight of hu-man need, who up - on the cross, for -
hun - gry cry for bread; still the cap - tives long for
love's re - veal-ing light in its height and depth and
your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the

7



- sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed: we, your
free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O
great - ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, mak-ing
a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show; hope and

10



ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se -
Lord, your deep com - pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the
known the needs and bur-dens your com - pas-sion bids us bear, stir-ring
health, good will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give, that your

14



- crat-ing to your pur pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
love your Spir-it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
us to tire-less striv ing your a - bun-dant life to share.
ser-vants, Lord, in free dom may your mer - cy know, and live.

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Together let us pray,

C: Gracious God, we love to ask you questions. We love to throw our wonderings at the sky, to bring our curiosity to your feet, to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long. But when the answers come, we don't always like what we hear. Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening, and make room in our spirits for your Word to land. With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

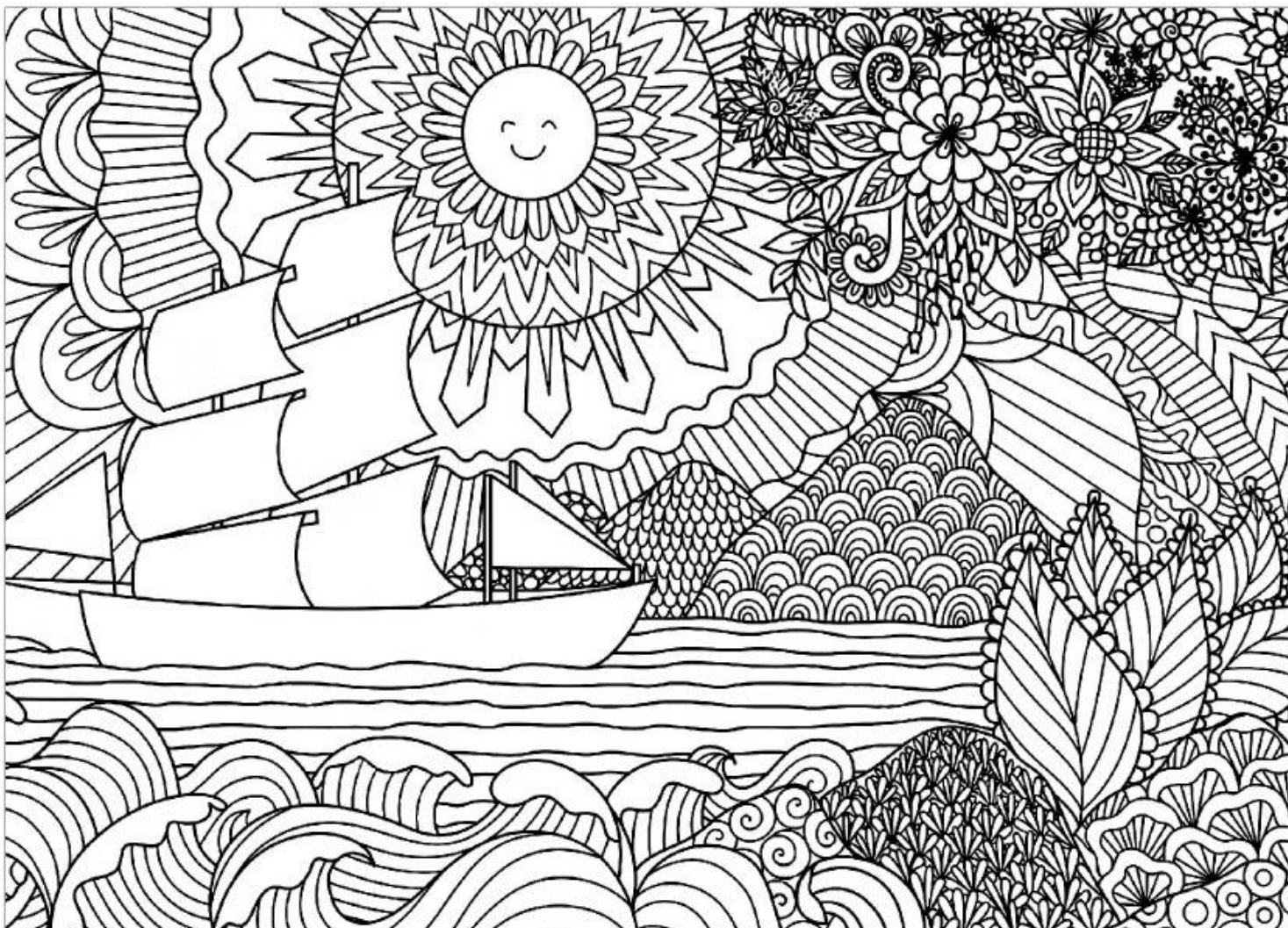
Luke 10:25-37 (The Message)

CONGREGATIONAL TESTIMONY

Michael Maletz

HYMN OF THE DAY UM HYMNAL # 593 (see next page)

Here I Am Lord



Here I Am Lord

Dan Schutte, 1981

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Piano 

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,

5 

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will break their
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est bread I

10 

stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

14 

light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
word to them. Whom shall I send?
life to them. Whom shall I

21 

I have heard you call - ing in the night. I will go Lord, if you

28 

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Church, if God asked you, “Who is your neighbor?” what would you say?

C: We would say, every child, every person, every weeping willow, and every morning lark. Every freckled face, every wrinkled pair of hands, every tail-wagging dog, and every crisp ripe apple.

We would say, we are connected—to one another, to all of God’s creation. There are no strangers in God’s house. We are all family here.

L: I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

C: with all your soul,

L: with all your strength,

C: with all your mind,

L: and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER²

L: God of love, give us a deep love for you, so that we can see the world as you see it, feel the compassion you feel, and be a people whose lives mediate your love to others. God in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw. Grant us the insight to see the need in others, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it. God in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all those people, who in many and various ways, have been stripped, beaten and left for dead. We pray for children who are growing up in the most awful of circumstances, especially for those starved of love or food, shelter or security. May they receive the future you have planned for them. God in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid, those who have been excluded socially because of their race, financial status, or history. May the dignity that is theirs be restored to them. God in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God give us a deep love for you, that we might see your love at work in this world, and that we might go and do likewise. God in your mercy,

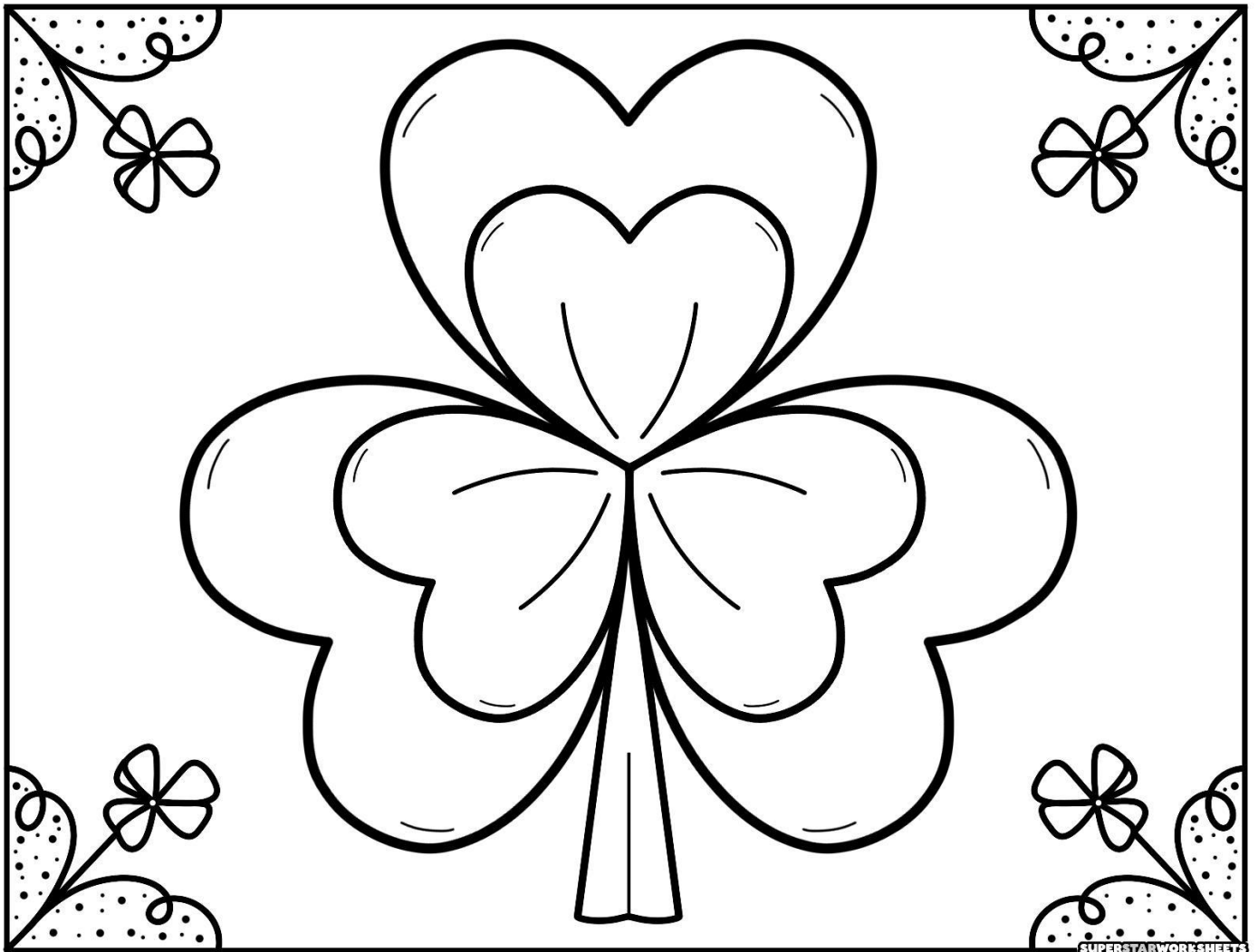
C: Hear our prayer.

L: Now may our voices join with all of God's children in praying the words that he taught us,

C: 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.

***CLOSING HYMN FWS # 2223** (black hymnal, see next page)

They'll Know We Are Christians



They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Peter Scholtes

Text: © 1991, Lorenz Publishing

♩ = 80

Piano

1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the
 2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in
 3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by
 4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things

5

Lord, we are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the
 hand, we will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in
 side, we will work with each oth-er, we will work side by
 come, and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's on - ly

9

Lord, and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
 hand, and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 side, and we'll guard hu-man dig - ni - ty and save hu-man
 Son, and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us

13

- stored: and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our
 land:
 pride:
 one:

17

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love._____

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

How Beautiful

by Paris

¹Liturgy and Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

²The Prayers of the People are based on prayer/prayers written by Rev. Dr. Robyn Provis, on <https://katyandtheword.com/2017/02/19/the-good-samaritan-narrative-lectionary-lent-prayers/> and accessed for use 3/10/25.

Thank you to Ron Miles for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Tama Allison for serving as liturgist. Thank you to our Lenten team for decorating the altar and providing the structure for our Lenten services. The Lent team members are Andrea Adams, Cindy Hogentogler, Sandy King, & Pastor Amy.

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