

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 23, 2025

9:45 AM

### **Third Sunday of Lent**

#### ***Everything [in] Between<sup>1</sup>*** ***Rest and Growth***

*Thank you for worshipping 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, 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**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THEME**

#### **PRELUDE**

*Seed Scattered and Sown*

by Feiten

#### **POEM**

*Gray*

written by Cindy Hogentogler & read by Tama Allison

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

L: Worship is a place to rest.

**C: We breathe deeply here.**

L: We still our aching bones.

**C: We sit in the quiet.**

L: We surround ourselves with music.

**C: Worship is a place to rest.**

L: Worship is a place to grow.

**C: We listen for God's word.**

L: We invite it to challenge us.

**C: We lean in with curiosity.**

L: We ask questions.

**C: Worship is a place to grow.**

L: So come into this space.

**C: Come rest and grow here.**

L: For where two or more are gathered,

**C: God is always there.**

L: Let us worship our gracious God.

**\*GATHERING HYMN NCH # 488** (see below)

*Be Still My Soul*


## Be Still My Soul

Katharina von Schlegel, 1752


Jean Sibelius, 1899

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano 


1. Be still my soul: for God is on your side; bear pa-tient -  
2. Be still my soul: for God will un-der take to guide in  
3. Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here when we shall

6 

- ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to  
fu - ture days as in the past. Your hope, your con - fi -  
be with God whom we a - dore, with dis - ap - point - ment

11 

or - der and pro - vide; in ev - ery change God faith - ful will re -  
- dence let noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious shall be clear at  
gone, no grief nor fear, so - row re - placed with joy for - ev - er -

16 

- main. Be still my soul: your best e - ter - nal friend  
last. Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know  
- more. Be still my soul: when change and tears are past,

21 

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
how Je - sus' pow - er ruled them long a - go.  
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

## **\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

**C: There are days when we fail to rest. We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest. There are also days when we fail to act. We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction. God, forgive our imbalance. Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

**C: God’s grace is deeper than the ocean. God’s love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*ACT OF PRAISE UM HYMNAL # 558** (refrain, v. 4, refrain, see below) *We Are the Church*

**ALL SING: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together!**

**And when the people gather, there’s singing and there’s praying, there’s laughing and there’s crying sometimes, all of it saying,**

**I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together!**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 13:6-9 (CEB)*

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (see next page)

*Beneath the Soil*

# Beneath the Soil

Words: Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by George Kirbye, 1592

♩ = 80

Piano

1. Be - neath the so - il in the dark there's  
2. Re - mem - ber when the world de - mands more  
3. The rest and nur - ture we re - ceive will  
4. In ev - ery sea - son of our lives the

4

growth too slow to see. A trans - for - ma - tion  
than you can pro - duce. We each grow at a  
turn to fruit in time. For God made us to  
Spi - rit is at work. To nur - ture us to

7

not dis - played in bran - ches, fruit, and leaves.  
diff - erent pace and growth starts at the roots.  
grow and change as toward the sky we climb.  
bear good fruit while root - ed in the earth.

## 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.

**WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Crucified with Christ*

by Dengler

## A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

by Maker

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 707 UM** (see below)

*Hymn of Promise*

# In the Bulb There is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth

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♩ = 80

Piano



1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an apple  
2. There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o -  
3. In our end is our be - gin-ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

5



tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be  
- dy; there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and  
- ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -

9



free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to  
me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter -  
- ty. In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -

13



be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
- y, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
- ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Awake Thou Wintry Earth*

by Birchwood

**References**

<sup>1</sup>The Worship Liturgy was by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

<sup>2</sup>The Poem *Gray* was written by Cindy Hogentogler

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.

**Welcome Team Members**—John & Connie Wolfe, Barry & Nancy Schwartz

**Guest Preacher**—Andrea Adams

**Liturgist**—Carol Hartman

**Tech Team**—Elaine Bevivino, John Kollasch, John Schriver