



Wednesday Lent Service

Everything [in] Between

7 PM

March 26, 2025

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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

March 26, 2025

7:00 PM

Everything [in] Between: Rest & Growth¹
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 *Slow Growth* Rev. Sarah Speed

PRELUDE *Jesus My Cross I Have Taken* Traditional

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 NCH NO. 505 UM HYMNAL (see below)

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845

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Piano 

1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a
2. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the
3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe -

5



world of care, and bids me at my Mak-er's throne let all my needs and
bliss I share of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for
- ti - tion bear to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing

9



wants be known. In sea-sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten
your re - turn! With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my
soul to bless. And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and

13



found re - lief, and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re-turn, sweet
Sav - ior's face, And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet
trust God's grace, I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet

17



hour of prayer!
hour of prayer!
hour of prayer!

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Together let us pray,

C: Creator God, Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in. Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth. And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages, waters and delights, seeds and tends. So as we turn to your text today, warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces, and show us how to grow. With hope we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:6-9 (The Message)

CONGREGATIONAL TESTIMONY

Elaine Bevino

HYMN OF THE DAY NCH # 384 (see next page)

Love Divine All Loves Excelling



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Dykes, 1823-1876

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come
 2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy love - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled
 3. Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us all thy life re -
 4. Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us

8

down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful
 breast; Let us all in thee in - her - it; Let us find thy
 - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy
 be; Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re -

15

mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure un -
 prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 - tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee
 - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry Till in

22

- bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion.
 and O - meg - a be; End of faith, as its be - gin - ning,
 as thy hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing,
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our crowns be - fore thee,

29

En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Let us affirm our beliefs this day—beliefs that allow room for rest, growth, and everything in between.

C: We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener. We believe that like the trees, some seasons are for growth, and some seasons are for rest. Some days require pruning, and some require planting. Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit. So may we plant roots, reach for the sky, grow where we can, and rest when we need, for we believe there is holiness in the pruning and in the planting. And we do not grow alone. Thanks be to God, amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Holy and nurturing God, You are the Master Gardener, tending to our souls with patience and care. As we lift our prayers before You, we ask that You meet us in the stillness and in the striving, in the waiting and in the flourishing.

L: God of Sabbath, You call us to holy rest, yet we resist. For those weary from the weight of work, from burdens unseen, and from the striving for growth that seems arduously slow—grant peace. May the soil of our souls be replenished, our roots restored, and our branches unburdened from relentless demands.

God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of new beginnings, just as the fig tree longs to bear fruit, so too do we long to grow. When we feel stagnant, when we struggle to see progress, when we doubt Your work within us—remind us that even in unseen places, You are nourishing us. Help us to trust Your timing, to remain rooted in Your word, and to stretch toward the light of Your grace. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of the in-between, so much of our lives is spent in waiting—the slow unfolding of dreams, the patient tending of faith, the seasons where growth feels dormant. In the tension between what is and what is not yet, give us the courage to trust that You are still at work. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of deep roots, there are many who feel displaced—uprooted by loss, by change, by uncertainty. When life feels unsteady, plant them in the firm foundation of Your love. Surround them with the nourishment of community and the shelter of Your presence. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of abundance, You see in us what we cannot yet see in ourselves. Where there is potential—cultivate patience. Where there is new life—protect it. Where there is fruit—bless it to nourish others. May we not grow discouraged, but trust in Your purpose, knowing that in due time, we will bear the fruit You have planted within us. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious and loving God, You are faithful in all seasons—whether we are resting, growing, waiting, or bearing fruit. Teach us to trust Your tending, to lean into Your care, and to rejoice in the rhythms of grace You have set before us. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who makes all things new.

C: Amen.

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 NCH # 428** (see next page)

It is Well



It Is Well With My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

Philip P. Bliss, 1876

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♩ = 80

Piano



1. When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each
2. Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
4. O God, speed the day that is filled with your

5



day, when sor - rows like sea bil-lows roll; what - ev - er my
come, let this blessed as sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -
thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the
light, when clouds are rolled back as a scroll; the trump - et shall

10



lot, you have taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my
gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my
cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my
sound, and the Lord shall ap - pear, e - ven so, it is well with my

15



soul. It is well with my soul, it is
soul.
soul.
soul.

20



well, it is well with my soul.

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

by Watts

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

Thank you to Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, & John Kollasch for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Brenda Beyer 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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