



Wednesday Lent Service

Everything [in] Between

7 PM

April 9, 2025

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

April 9, 2025

7:00 PM

Everything [in] Between: Righteousness & Mercy¹
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 *Righteousness & Mercy* Rev. Sarah Speed

PRELUDE *He's Always Been Faithful* by Groves

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. 551** (see below)

Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior


Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Crosby, 1820

Doane, 1832

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$




1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior,
2. Let me at your throne of mer - cy
3. Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it,
4. Be the Spring of all my com - fort,

3



hear my hum - ble cry; While on oth - ers you are call - ing,
find a sweet re - lief; Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion,
would I seek your face; Heal my wound - ed bro - ken spir - it,
more than life to me; Not just here on earth be - side me,

7



do not pass me by. Sav - ior, Sav - ior,
help my un - be - lief.
save me by your grace.
but e - ter - nal - ly.

11



hear my hum - ble cry; While on oth - ers you are call - ing,

15



do not pass me by.

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Together let us pray,

C: Loving God, Week after week we return to this space, because we long to see you. Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to get a peek at you as you walked by, we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek of your goodness, of your joy, of your light. So speak to us through these ancient words. Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10 (The Message)

CONGREGATIONAL TESTIMONY

Cindy Hogentogler

HYMN OF THE DAY NCH # 485 (see next page)

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

George Matheson, 1882

Albert L. Peace, 1885

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. O Love that will not let me go, I
 2. O Light that fol-lows all my way, to
 3. O Joy that seeks me through my pain, to
 4. O Cross that rais-es up my head, from

4

rest you you you
 my wea-ry soul in you; I
 I yield my flick-ering flame; Re -
 I can-not close my heart; I
 I dare not seek to flee; Life's

6

give - new trace glo -
 you back the my spir-it's the rain-bow
 life I fee - ble ray, that
 I owe, that
 that
 and
 but

8

in from know from
 your o - cean depths its flow may swell with
 your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new
 the prom - ise is not vain that you will
 the ground there blos-soms red, life that shall

10

ar - dor true.
 bright - ness claim.
 ne'er - de - part.
 end - less be.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

C: In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules. He offered mercy. He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love. He chose to see the best in others.

We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives. We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith.

So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy, inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love, and choosing to see the best in others. With God's help, may it be so. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gracious and merciful God, You sent Your Son to seek and to save the lost. As we journey through this Lenten season, reflecting on righteousness, mercy, and everything in between, we bring our prayers before You, trusting in Your boundless love.

L: God of mercy, just as You called Zacchaeus down from the sycamore tree, calling him by name, so too do You call us to repentance and new life. Turn our hearts from sin, that we may receive Your righteousness as a gift and bear the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of justice, You see beyond outward appearances and into the depths of our hearts. Just as Jesus dined with sinners and welcomed the outcast, may Your Church be a place of grace and transformation for all. Make us bold in extending Your mercy to those who are despised, ignored, or forgotten. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord of righteousness, we lift before You all in positions of power and authority. Guide them to lead with integrity, fairness, and compassion, that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Bring healing where there is corruption, and peace where there is division. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of compassion, You met Zacchaeus in his longing and changed his heart. We pray for all who are struggling—those burdened by guilt, weighed down by sin, or in need of restoration. Grant them Your mercy and lead them to new beginnings. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of salvation, in Your mercy You made Zacchaeus a new creation, taking what could have been a heart of greed and making it a heart of generosity. Help us to live as faithful stewards of Your gifts, seeking not our own gain, but the good of others and the glory of Your kingdom. God in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 # 423** (see next page)

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, blessings 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!

***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 George DeMers, John Schriver, & Joe Vacante for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Elaine Bevivino 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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