

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

May 18, 2025

9:45 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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, 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

PRELUDE

And Jesus Said with Be Not Afraid

arr. Tate

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come all who are weary of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division

C: We come to worship a God of hope.

L: Come all who are heavy-laden with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger

C: We come to worship a God who lifts us up.

L: Come all who have hope for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom

C: We come to worship a God of resurrection.

L: Hear these words "See, I am making all things new."

C: We come to worship you, O God, make all things new again.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: May we dream of a world made new,

C: Where together we shout for justice, and as one we fight against oppression.

L: May we dream of a world made new,

C: Where together we seek God's righteousness, and as one we sing God's praise.

L: May we dream of a world made new,

C: Where together we climb God's mountain, and as one we enter the promised land.

L: May we dream of a world made new,

C: Where together we proclaim the good news of God's kingdom, and as one we enjoy its peace, and abundance and love. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN NCH # 417** (black hymnal, see next page)

This is a Day of New Beginnings



This is a Day of New Beginnings

Les Garrett, 1967

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. This is a day of new be - gin-nings,
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

5

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to show and share what love can do.

9

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 our dis - a - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings

13

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things

2.

17

new.

***TIME OF CONFESSION¹**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Risen Christ,

C: You who are always doing a new thing, we confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change.

God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns.

Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives, and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Let us proclaim together the truth that sets us free:

C: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!

***ACT OF PRAISE NCH # 236** (black hymnal)

Halle, Halle, Halle

ALL SING: Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

I am the resurrection, live in me. I am the way the truth, follow me. I am the resurrection, live in me. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Deb Herlocker

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

I Saw the Light

Traditional

SCRIPTURE

Acts 11:1-18 (NRSV)

John 13:31-35 (NRSV)

SERMON

Dave Firestone


HYMN OF THE DAY NCH NO. 177 (see next page)

God of Change and Glory

God of Change and Glory

Al Carmines, 1973

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Piano 

1. God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
2. God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
3. Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new-ness of each night,

5 

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace. In the midst of
you have made us dif - ferent, bless-ing man - y kinds. As the old ways
you are still cre - a - ting end-less love and light. This we see, as

10 

chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise. Man-y gifts, one Spir-it,
dis - ap-pear, let your love cast out our fear.
shad-ows part, man-y gifts from one great heart.

16 

one love known in man-y ways. In our dif-fer - ence is bless-ing, from di-ver - si -

21 

- ty we praise one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,

28 

hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Risen Christ, you meet us in the garden, on the road, in locked rooms, and in broken hearts. You call us by name and invite us into the new reality of resurrection. And so, with Easter hope in our bones, we pray...When we are surrounded by signs of death,

C: Let your resurrection life rise within us.

L: For your Church in every place—That we may live as an Easter people, proclaiming good news, loving boldly, and embodying your hope in weary places.

C: Make us witnesses to resurrection.

L: For the beauty of creation waking to new life, for the birdsong and blooming trees, for the joy of spring and signs of renewal all around—We give you thanks.

C: We praise you, God of life and light.

L: And now, with grateful hearts, we lift aloud the joys that fill us this day—
(All are invited to name joys aloud before God)

L: For the celebrations, the breakthroughs, the laughter, and the love.

C: Risen Christ, thank you for these gifts of grace.

L: For all who struggle with mental health—those living with anxiety, depression, trauma, or isolation—and for those who care for them, may your gentle hope and abiding strength surround and sustain.

C: God of mercy, renew minds, uplift spirits, and restore peace.

L: For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, for those grieving, weary, or afraid, for any who feel lost in the dark before dawn—we name aloud those whom we carry in prayer today...

(All are invited to lift names aloud before God)

L: To those we have lifted before you aloud or in our hearts, bring your comfort, your peace, your healing.

C: God of resurrection, hold them in your love.

L: We remember those who have died, trusting that in you, death never has the final word. Gather us with them in your eternal love.

C: Christ is risen! Christ is with us! Alleluia!

L: Let all our prayers rise with the dawn of new life, as we join our voices with the faithful of every time and place, praying as Christ taught us:

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

Jesus Loves Me

Traditional

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 391 NCH** (see below, vs. 1, 3, & 5)

In the Midst of New Dimensions

In the Midst of New Dimensions

Julian Rush, 1985

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of
2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions
3. As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-
4. We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions,
5. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-

4
chang-ing ways, Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their
and de-spair, Who will lift the ol-ive bran-ches? Who will light the
-seek-ing schemes, Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion
old and young, Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song
-draw in pain, May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the

8 *Refrain*
sep-arate ways? God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar,
flame of care?
wid-er dreams.
to be sung.
church a gain.

12
lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney

16
now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er more.

References

¹The Call to Worship is adapted from I Am Making All Things New, written by Rosie Venner. Posted on the WSCF Europe website. <http://wscf-europe.org/mozaik-issues/mozaik-25-the-powers-that-be/worship-i-am-making-all-things-new/> and accessed 5/12/25.

²The Prayer of the Day was written by Christine Sine and shared in the Godspace website. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2013/08/19/i-have-a-dream-a-prophetic-speech-now-50-years-old/>, accessed for use on 5/12/25.

³The Prayer of Confession was written as a resource and shared by Teri on the RevGalBlogPals A Place for Prayer blog. <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/> and accessed for use on 5/12/25.

Welcome Team Members—Bob & Kathy Ensminger, Stella Fletcher

Guest Preacher—Dave Firestone

Children's Message—Deb Herlocker

Liturgist—Jen Miller

Tech Team—Deb Herlocker & Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch