

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 25, 2025

9:45 AM

Sixth 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

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

PRELUDE

Peace Prelude

arr. Tate

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: From God comes the wonder of creation.

C: We will worship God the Creator.

L: From God comes healing for the brokenness we see.

C: We will worship God our Redeemer.

L: From God comes the strength to face the new day.

C: We worship God our Sustainer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY²

L: God our Creator,

C: With open arms You welcome all who call on Your name—who acknowledge You as Lord, and look to You in faith. No one stands outside the circle of Your mercy and love.

And so we come to offer You our worship—to declare that You are our God, and that we are Your people, called and chosen by You from the very beginning. Through the presence of Your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see You here; open our minds to receive Your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing Your praise. For You alone are God—worthy of all praise and worship, now and to the end of time. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN NCH # 459** (black hymnal, below)

Come O Fount of Every Blessing

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my
 2. Here I pause in my so-journ-ing, giv-ing
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly

heart to sing your grace; streams of mer-cy nev-er ceas-ing, call for
 thanks for hav-ing come, come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will
 I am drawn a-new! Let that grace now, like a fet-ter, bind my

songs of end-less praise. Teach me some me-lo-dious
 guide me safe-ly home. Je-sus sought me when a
 wan-dering heart to you. Prone to wan-der, I can

son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove. Praise the
 strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God, Came to
 feel it, wan-der from the love I've known: Here's my

mount I'm fixed up-on-it, mount of God's un-fail-ing love.
 res-cue me from dan-ger, bless-ed bod-y pre-cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver-y own.

***TIME OF CONFESSION³**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Eternal God,

C: Because you dwell in our hearts, you know how the anger, the pain, the bitterness of our lives try to crowd you out. The noise of the world deafens us to that Word which can heal us. We want our children to be good, kind, and gentle to others, and then they hear us call others names, and speak of them with demeaning words. Our desire for revenge towards those who have hurt us shows that your peace, indeed, is not within us.

You promise a new heaven and a new earth, so create new spirits and lives within us, O God. Shattered by our sin, your heart can still heal our brokenness. Your Spirit, living deep within our souls, can teach us faithful ways. Your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, whispers to us of your mercy, your hope, your love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: The Word which can transform is not some idle gossip, but good news for us.

C: It fills us with forgiveness, equips us for service, and sends us forth to love others as God loves us. In our midst, the Holy Spirit teaches us all we need to know, gives us what we need in order to be faithful, and fills us with peace. 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

Travis Pinci

SCRIPTURE

*Psalm 67 (NRSV)
John 14:23-29 (NRSV)*

SERMON

Michael Maletz

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Traditional Mexican Folk Hymn, 1988

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

5




us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

8



1. Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet,
 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show-ing our faith by our deeds,
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet,

12



Je - su, you ac - ted as ser - vant to them.
 neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.
 this is the way we should live with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: God of unending compassion and steadfast love, we come to you with hearts full—full of gratitude, of ache, of questions, of hope. First, we give thanks. For beauty that catches our breath, for quiet moments and loud laughter, for people who see us and love us anyway.

L: For sunshine that warms the skin, for the steady rhythm of the seasons, for meals shared, games played, walks taken, and time spent with those we love—we say, Thank you.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For the joys of our hearts—spoken and unspoken—we pause and name them now aloud or in silence.

(All are invited to name joys aloud before God)

L: For all the joys spoken and held close to our hearts.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

L: On this Memorial Day, we remember those who laid down their lives in service to others—those who believed in the hope of peace, and those whose names we will never know. We honor their sacrifice and pray for peace to take root.

C: God of peace, hear our prayer.

L: We remember, too, those who carry grief—the empty chairs at tables, the heaviness of memory. Wrap your comfort around all who mourn.

C: God of mercy, hold them close.

L: Jesus, on the night before your suffering, you washed your disciples' feet and said: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Help us love not just in word but in action—to ease the burdens of those around us, to stand for peace where there is violence, to extend compassion in a world so in need.

C: God of love, make us instruments of your grace.

L: God, we lift to you the names of those on our hearts today—friends, neighbors, loved ones in need of healing, of hope, of light in a dark season. We name them now aloud or in silence.

(All are invited to name those in need of prayer aloud before God)

L: Be gentle with those we lift to you this day.

C: Loving God, be near to them.

L: We pray for this aching world—for those in the path of nature's fierce forces, for victims of violence and war, for those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Where fear thrives, bring calm. Where despair deepens, stir courage.

C: Christ our peace, bring healing to the nations.

L: You, O God, are not distant—you are with us, working through our hands and hearts. Through every act of mercy, you bless and are blessed. Help us be vessels of your presence and carriers of your love.

C: Your love has no limits. Your grace has no end. Make us bold in love, tender in spirit, and generous in hope as together we pray the words you have 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

Symphony of Peace

arr. Combs

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 431 UM HYMNAL** (see next page)

Let There Be Peace on Earth



Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller & Jill Jackson

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time with a tempo of 80 beats per minute. It consists of seven staves of music, each with a line number at the beginning. The lyrics are written below the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final fermata.

Let there be peace on earth and let it be - gin with me; let

10 there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be. With God

18 our cre - a-tor chil-dren all are we. Let us walk with each

27 other in per-fect har-mo - ny Let peace be - gin with me; let

37 this be the mo-ment now. With ev-ery step I take let this be my

46 sol-emn vow: to take each mo-ment and live each mo-ment in peace e -

54 - ter-nal - ly. Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

References

¹The Call to Worship is written by Katherine Hawker for the Union Church UCC of Tekonsha, 1994. Posted on Outside the Box. <http://liturgyoutside.net/> and accessed for use 5/14/25.

²The Prayer of the Day was provided as a resource on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/opening-prayer-with-open-arms.html> and 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.

⁴The Benediction is inspired by John 14: 23-29 and given as a resource for use by <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/benediction-john-14.html> and accessed for use on 5/14/25.

Welcome Team Members—Byron & Dawn Almoney, Deb & Terry Barnes

Guest Preacher—Michael Maletz

Children's Message—Travis Pinci

Liturgist— Stella Fletcher

Tech Team— George DeMers, Joe Vacante