

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

July 13, 2025

9:45 AM

Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown
Heaven & The Second Coming

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! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (played by Jack Bicher) *Rudimental Roundup* by John Kinyon

GATHERING LITURGY¹

L: We gather today as seekers of discovery, carried by wonder, embraced by mystery, drawn here by the God who is always revealing more.

C: We come with expectant hearts, ready to meet the Living God.

L: This is the wonder we cannot keep silent:

C: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts: that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted His Son to the care of ordinary people, and became vulnerable that we might know the strength and wonder of His Love. A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp. A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

L: Let us worship this God of wonder, mystery, and love.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver
3. As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will

4

trod, with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of
spray, we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en
down; grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and
cease; soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of

8

God? Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,
day.
crown.
peace.

13

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION²**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

C: you invite us to live in mystery—to walk by faith, not by sight. But we confess: we prefer certainty. We long for clear paths, fixed plans, and predictable outcomes. You call us to trust in your promises, to see the world through your eyes of mercy. But too often, we rely on our own understanding, measuring life by what we can control.

You speak of new creation, of old things passing away and everything becoming new. But we hold on to the familiar, afraid to let go of what no longer gives life. It is hard to live by faith. Forgive us, O God of mercy.

Forgive us for playing god, for clinging to illusions of control, instead of resting in your mystery and love. Teach us again to walk by faith. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear this good news: The God who scattered stars across the heavens also plants seeds of grace in the soil of your soul. Though the work is hidden, though the growth is a mystery, God is making all things new—even you. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, we all are forgiven, set free to live by faith, and called to grow in love.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:6-9 (CEB)

Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-5 (CEB)

John 14:1-4 (CEB)

INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 625 ELW (see next page)

We're Marching to Zion

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

We're Marching to Zion

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Roberty Lowry

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be
2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our
3. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred
4. Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be

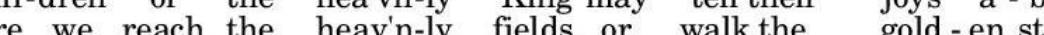
5



known;
God;
sweets
dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be -
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're

8



in a song with sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and
chil-dren of the hea'vn-ly King may tell their joys a - broad may
- fore we reach the heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or
march-ing through Im - man-u-el's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to

12 *Refrain*



thus sur-round the throne. We're march-ing to Zi-on, beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful
tell their joys a-broad.
walk the gold-en streets.
fair-er worlds on high.

17



Zio-on: we're march-ing up-wards to Zi - on, the beau-ti-ful ci-ty of God.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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.

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY (played by Amy Peck & Travis Pinci)

Graves Into Gardens

by Lake

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 610 NCH** (see next page)

My Eyes Have Seen the Glory

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Heaven

by Kartsonakis

References

¹The opening liturgy includes the writing of John Birch, posted on [Faith and Worship - Prayers and Resources](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html) and used with permission as accessed at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html> on 6/11/25.

²The prayer of confession is inspired by the work of by Peter Bankson. Posted on the **Worship Elements** page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/> and accessed on 6/11/25.

Welcome Team Members—Carol Bair, Deb & Terry Barnes, Stella Fletcher

Liturgist—Tori Everhart

Tech Team—George DeMers, Dave Firestone, Jack Herlocker

Special Musicians—Jack Bicher, Amy Peck, & Travis Pinci

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

My Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Julia Ward Howe, 1861

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. My eyes have seen the glo - ry of the
 2. God has been there in the watch - fires of a
 3. God has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall
 4. In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was

3
 com - ing of the Lord, who is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the
 hun - dred cir - cling camps, there they built a sa - cred al - tar in the
 nev - er call re - treat; and is sift - ing out the hearts of all be -
 born a - cross the sea with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans -

5
 grapes of wrath are stored, And has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of a
 eve - ning dews and damps; I can read the righ - teous sen - tence by the
 - fore the judg - ment seat; O be swift, my soul, to an - swer and be
 - fig - ures you and me; As Christ died to make us ho - ly, let us

7
Refrain
 ter - ri - ble swift sword; God's truth is march - ing on. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
 dim and flar - ing lamps; God's day is march - ing on.
 ju - bi - lant my feet! Out God is march - ing on.
 die ot make all free; While God is march - ing on.

12
 Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah! God's truth is march - ing on.