

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 27, 2025

9:45 AM

Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown
Divorce

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
JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE (sung by Shaun Carter) *More Than Anything* by Robinson

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.

Verse 1

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus

So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God!
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me!

Verse 2

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in Heaven above,
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me!

Bridge

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross!
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross!

Chorus

So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me!



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***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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Haye Malott, arr. Demondrae Thurman

John R. Zimmerman – Euphonium

Robert Woodbridge – Euphonium

George W. DeMERS – Tuba

G. Mason DeMERS – Tuba

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:1-12 (CEB)

John 8:1-11 (CEB)

INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Verse 1

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longin' just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart
I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the ways things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

I'm comin' back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus

Verse 2

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much You deserve?
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours
Every single breath
I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart, yeah

Chorus

I'm comin' back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus

*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 (sung by Amy Peck)

Healing Rain

by Smith

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN** (see next page)

Above All

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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—Tori Everhart, Jesse & Nancy Smith

Liturgist— Connie Wolfe

Tech Team— Deb & Jack Herlocker, John Schriver

Special Musicians—Praise Band, Shaun Carter, George W. DeMers, G. Mason DeMers, Amy Peck, Robert Woodbridge, John R. Zimmerman

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

ABOVE ALL

Verse 1

Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Verse 2

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever
known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what You're
worth

Chorus

Crucified, laid behind a stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose, trampled on the ground

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Chorus

Crucified, laid behind a stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all

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You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose, trampled on the ground
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Above all

Like a rose, trampled on the ground