

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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August 03, 2025

9:45 AM

Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown
World Religions
Sacrament of Holy Communion

*This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper.
Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.*

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 Caitlin Damon)
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

**Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.*

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.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 388 NCH** (black hymnal)

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help Us Accept Each Other

Samuel J. Stone, 1866

Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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Piano ♩ = 80

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 80. The score consists of four staves of music, each with corresponding lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in four columns, with some lines spanning across columns. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

1. Help us ac-cept each oth - er as Christ ac-cept-ed
2. Teach us, O God, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly
3. Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be
4. God, for to-day's en - coun - ters with all who are in

5

us; teach us as sis-ter broth - er, each per - son to em -
life we strug-ple to be hu - man and search for hope and
moved in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in
need, who hun-ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ-teous-ness and

9

- brace. Be pres-ent, God, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve, we
faith. Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some, to
love; to prac-tice your ac - ceptance, un - til we know by heart the
bread, Bring us new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold-ing on; re -

14

are our-selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- new us with your Spir - it; God! Free us, make us one!

*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

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (CEB)

Micah 4:1-4 (CEB)

INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 576 NCH (see next page)

For the Healing of the Nations

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.


For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

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$\text{♩} = 160$

Piano




1. For the heal - ing of the na-tions, God, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free-dom; from de - spair your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

4




one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

7



of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

10



love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word. Help us rise and
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease. Fear will die and
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span. May we hal - low
 - sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find. Earth its des ti -

14



pledge our word.
 hope in - crease.
 life's brief span.
 ney may find.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

This Is My Song

arr. Tate

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION LITURGY

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.

TIME OF COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Holy and gracious God,

C: we give you thanks for this meal of mystery, where you have fed us with your love and renewed us for the journey ahead. Send us out, still curious, still seeking, and always guided by your grace. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN FWS NO. 2130** (see next page)

The Summons

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

by Handel

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.


The Summons

John Bell

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano




1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?__
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?__
 3. Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?__
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?__
 5. Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name. __

9



___ Will you go where you don't know and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
 ___ Will you care for cruel and kind and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
 ___ Will you set the pris-oners free and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
 ___ Will you quell the fear in - side and nev-er be the same?___ Will you
 ___ Let me turn and fol - low you and nev-er be the same. ___ In your

18



let my love be shown,___ will you let my name be known,___ will you
 risk the hos - tile stare,___ should your life at - tract or scare?___ Will you
 kiss the le - per clean,___ and do such as this un - seen,___ and ad -
 use the faith you've found ___ to re - shape the world a - round,___ through my
 com-pa - ny I'll go ___ where your love and foot-steps show,___ Thus I'll

26



let my life be grown in you and you in me?___
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?___
 - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?___
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?___
 move and live and grow in you and you in me. ___