

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

August 10, 2025

9:45 AM

Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown
Vocation

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 (sung by David Firestone)

You'll Never Walk Alone
by Rodgers & Hammerstein

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.

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Cesareo Gabarain, 1979

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Lord, you have come to the lake-shore look - ing nei - ther
 2. You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat car - ries
 3. You need my hands, full of car - ing through my lab - ors
 4. You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er longed for

6
 for wealth - y or wise ones; you on - ly asked me to fol - low
 no gold and no weap - ons; you will find there my nets and
 to give oth - ers rest, and con - stant love that keeps on
 by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing friend, as thus you

11
 hum - bly. O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
 la - bor.
 lov - ing.
 call me.

17
 smil - ing have spok - en my name; now my boat's left on the shore - line be -

23
 - hind me; by your side I will seek oth - er seas.

*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.

SPECIAL MUSIC (sung by the Belles)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-46 (CEB)

INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 2171 FWS (see next page)

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Verses 1, 2, 4



1. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. Where
2. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. Where
4. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. It



there is ha - tred, let me bring your love. Where
there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, in



there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, And
there is dark - ness, on - ly light, And
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Verse 3



3. Oh, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek So much to be con -



soled as to con - sole. To be un - der - stood as to un - der -



stand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: God of all creation, You have woven us together in the Body of Christ—each with unique gifts, each with a vital place. For the variety of talents, passions, and callings in our midst, we give thanks.

C: We are one body with many parts; We rejoice in the gifts of the Spirit.

L: For those who teach and those who learn, For those who heal and those who comfort, For those who lead and those who serve, For artists, organizers, caretakers, dreamers—we thank you, O God.

C: We are one body with many parts; We rejoice in the gifts of the Spirit.

L: As one body, we rejoice together. We now speak aloud the joys we carry—those glimpses of your goodness, O God, that remind us of hope and life. Let us share our joys aloud or in our hearts.

(Time for naming joys aloud)

L: For all these blessings, spoken and unspoken,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

L: As one body, when one of us suffers, we all suffer. And so we lift to you the places of pain and concern—in our lives, in our families, in our world. We name them now, aloud or in our hearts, trusting you hear and hold each one.

(Time for naming concerns aloud)

L: For all these needs, spoken and unspoken,

C: We ask your mercy, O God.

L: Knit us together in your Spirit. Help us honor each part of the Body, especially those we might overlook or misunderstand. May our differences not divide, but deepen our compassion and strengthen our witness.

C: We are one body with many parts; We rejoice in the gifts of the Spirit.

L: In your grace, make us one. And as one, together we join in the prayer that 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

Here I Am Lord

by Schutte

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN FWS NO. 2223** (see next page)

They'll Know We Are Christians

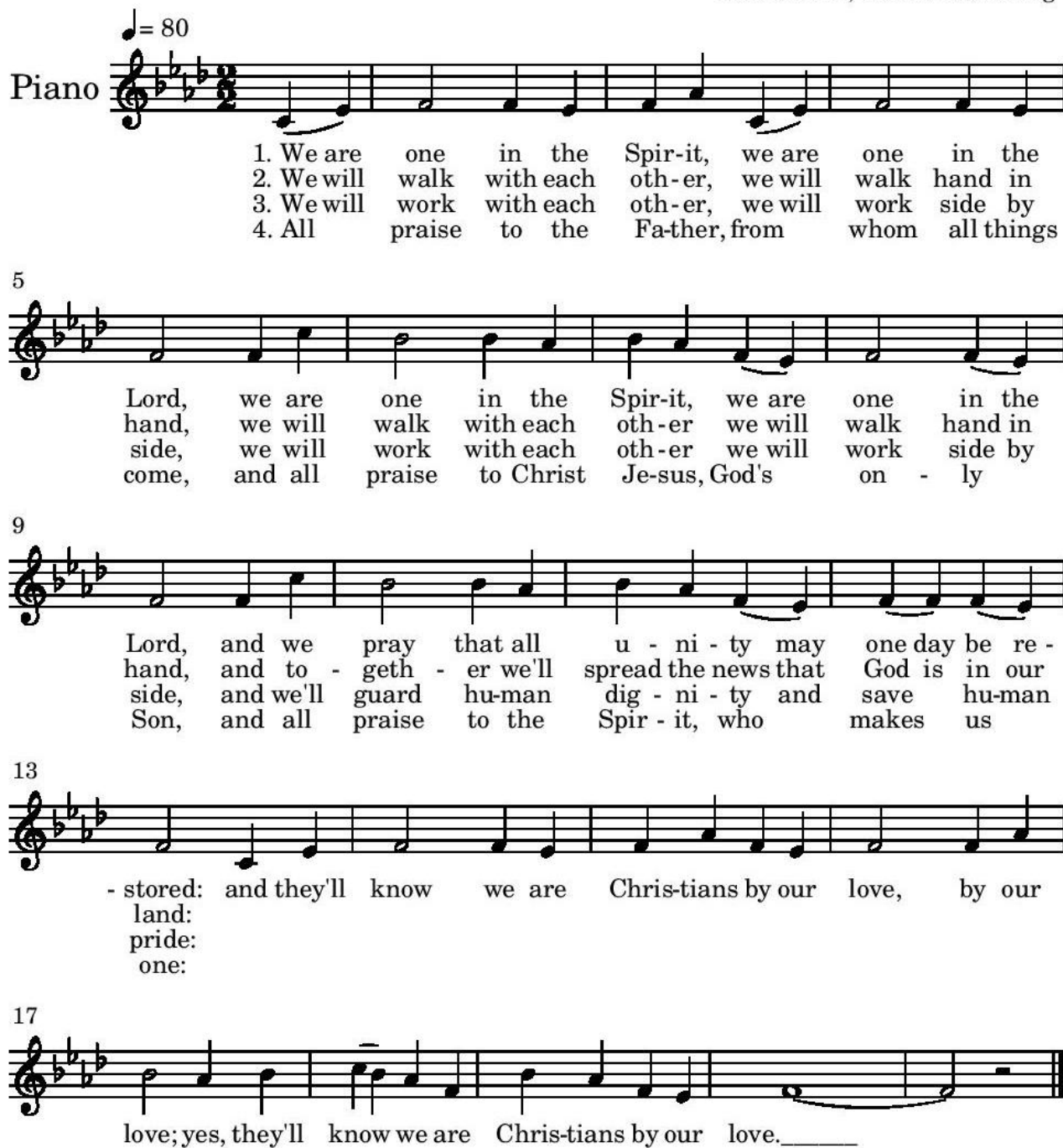
*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Peter Scholtes

Text: © 1991, Lorenz Publishing

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the
 2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in
 3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by
 4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things

5
 Lord, we are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the
 hand, we will walk with each oth-er we will walk hand in
 side, we will work with each oth-er we will work side by
 come, and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's on - ly

9
 Lord, and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
 hand, and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 side, and we'll guard hu-man dig - ni - ty and save hu-man
 Son, and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us

13
 - stored: and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our
 land:
 pride:
 one:

17
 love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. _____

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—Vanessa Bicher, Barb Stebbins, Carol Bair

Guest Preacher—Andrea Adams

Liturgist— Carol Hartman

Tech Team— George DeMers, Joe Vacante

Special Musicians— The Belles, David Firestone

