

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
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September 07, 2025

9:45 AM

**A Service of Holy Communion with
A Blessing of the Backpacks, Blankies, & Tech**

*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! 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

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Take My Life and Let It Be

Traditional

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

P: Today the case files are closing. The magnifying glasses are set down.
The detective board comes off the wall.

L: But the mystery of God? It continues—wilder and deeper than we can imagine. Today, we celebrate a year of curiosity and courage, and we prepare to step into the sacred ground of what comes next.

P: Come—bring your questions.

L: Come—bring your hope.

P: Come—bring your whole self. For God welcomes us here.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

C: We come with questions, doubts, and trust, ready to lean into God's mystery.

L: Present your lives as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God.

C: Our learning, our working, our playing, our resting—all belong to God.

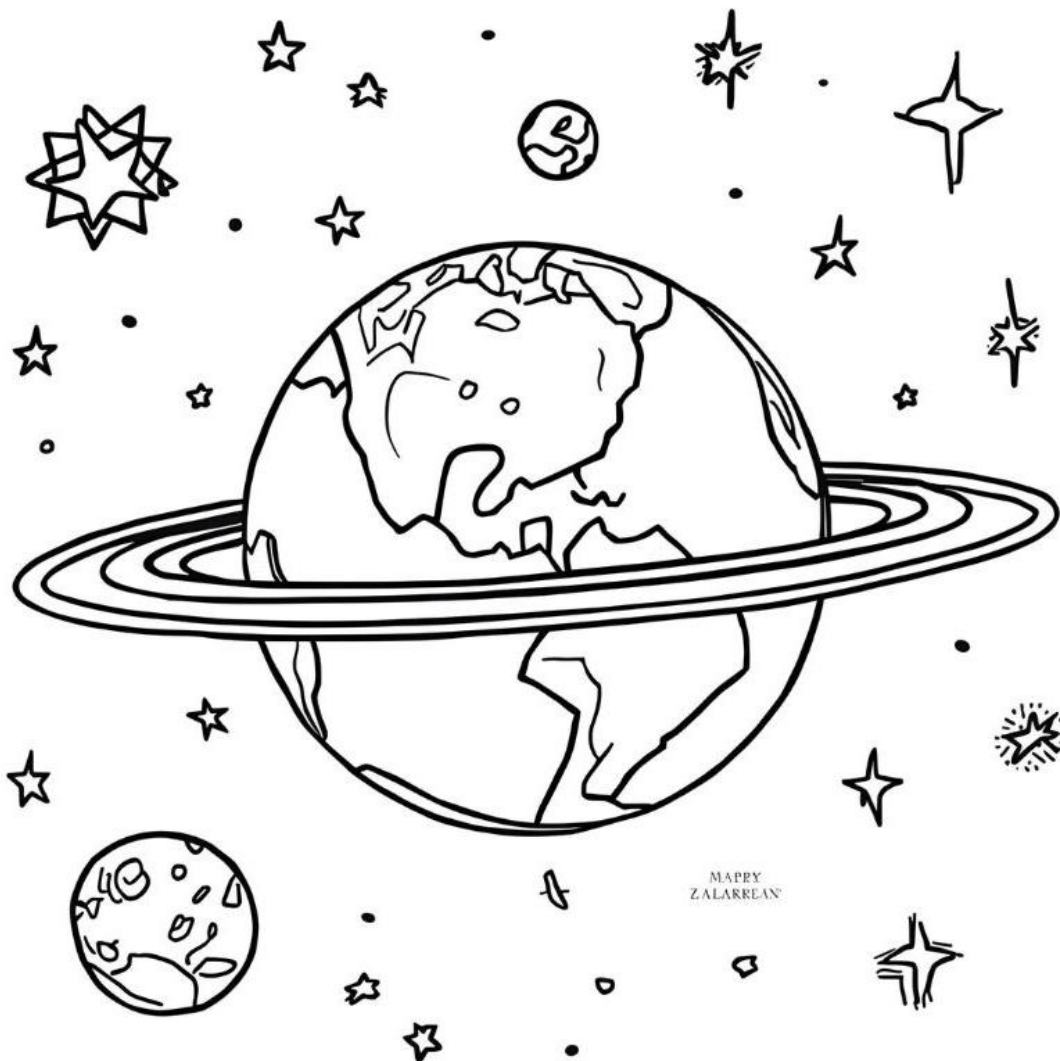
L: Do not be conformed to the ways of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.

C: We open our hearts and minds to God, who meets us in the messy middles of life. Let us worship God together!

L: Let us join in God's praise—I invite you to stand as comfortable for our gathering hymn.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 731** (ELW Hymnal, vs. 2-4, see next page)

Earth and All Stars



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Earth and All Stars!

Herbert F. Brokering, 1926

David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Earth and all stars!	Loud rush-ing plan - ets!
2. Trum - pet and pipes!	Loud clash-ing cym - bals!
3. En - gines and steel!	Loud pound-ing ham - mers!
4. Class-rooms and labs!	Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5. Knowl-edge and truth!	Loud sound-ing wis - dom!

5

Sing to the Lord	a new song!	Hail, wind, and
Sing to the Lord	a new song!	Harp, lute, and
Sing to the Lord	a new song!	Lime-stone and
Sing to the Lord	a new song!	Ath - lete and
Sing to the Lord	a new song!	Daugh-ter and

10

rain!	Loud blow-ing	snow - storm!	Sing to the Lord
lyre!	Loud hum-ming	cel - los!	Sing to the Lord
beams!	Loud build-ing	work - ers!	Sing to the Lord
band!	Loud cheer-ing	peo - ple!	Sing to the Lord
son!	Loud pray-ing	mem - bers!	Sing to the Lord

15

a new song!	God has done	mar -	vel - ous
a new song!			
a new song!			
a new song!			
a new song!			

20

things.	I too sing	praises with a	new song!
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*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION¹**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God of Wonder,

C: we confess that we would rather solve your mystery than be shaped by it. We chase after certainty instead of resting in trust. We shrink from the daily work of discipleship when it feels inconvenient, costly, or unclear.

We forget that our whole lives—our bodies, our work, our play, our relationships—are living offerings to you. Forgive us, O God where we have fallen short and gone astray. Renew our minds. Transform our hearts. Teach us again to live by faith, not by sight.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear this good news: Faith is not about having all the answers—faith is trusting the One who holds us in love. Through Christ, you are forgiven. Through Christ, we all are forgiven and we are set free to continue to live into the mystery of our life and faith with hope.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE, BLESSING OF THE BAGS

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3 (CEB)

Romans 12:1-12(CEB)

CLOSING THE CASE

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 2243 FWS (see next page)

We All Are One in Mission

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

We All Are One in Mission

Rusty Edwards

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano




1. We all are one in mis - sion; we
 2. We all are called for ser - vice, to
 3. Now let us be u - nit - ed, and

4




all are one in call, our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by
 wit - ness in God's name. Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our
 let our song be heard. Now let us be a ves - sel for

8



Christ, the Lord of all. A sin - gle great com -
 pur - pose is the same: To touch the lives of
 God's re - deem - ing Word. We all are one in

11



- mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove to plan and work to -
 oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace, so ev - ery folk and
 mis - sion; we all are one in call, our var - ied gifts u -

15



geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Here I Am Lord

by Schutte

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

TELLING THE STORY

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

At this time, all who are able are welcome to process down the center aisle to receive communion. You may take a piece of bread and then proceed to the juice. You can dip the bread in the cup. For those who need to remain seated, please indicate to a welcome team member or the pastor and communion will be brought to your seat. We also have gluten free wafers available for those who have a gluten allergy. Please see Pastor Amy to receive a gluten free wafer. Thank you!

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 495 NCH (see next page)

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 451 UM HYMNAL (see p. 8)

Be Thou My Vision

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

John E. Bode, 1868

A. H. Mann, 1883

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. Called as part-ners	in Christ's ser-vice,	called to min - is -
2. Christ's ex - am - ple,	Christ's in - spir-ing,	Christ's clear call to
3. Thus new pat-terns	for Christ's mis-sion,	in a small or
4. So God grant us	for to - mor-row	ways to or - der

4



- tries of grace, work and worth, glo - bal sense, hu - man life	We re - spond with Let us fol - low, Help us bear each That sur - round each	deep com - mit - ment nev - er fal - tering, oth - er's bur - dens, per - son's sor - row	fresh new lines of rec - on - cil - ing break - ing down each with a calm that
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8



faith to trace.	May we learn the	art of shar-ing,	side by side and
folk on earth.	Men and wo-men,	rich-er, poor-er,	all God's peo - ple,
wall or fence.	Words of com-fort,	words of vi-sion,	words of chal-lenge,
con-quers strife.	Make us part-ners	in our liv-ing,	our com-pas-sion

12



friend with friend, E - qual part - ners in our car - ing
young and old, Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er
said with care, Bring new power and strength for ac - tion,
to in - crease, Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing

15



to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
make us col - leagues, free and fair.
hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Be Thou My Vision

Mary E. Byrne, 1905

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♩ = 80

Piano

1. Be Thou my vi - sion O Lord of my heart.
2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my True Word.
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain em - pty praise,
4. Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

5

Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joy, O heav - en's Sun!

9

Thou my best thought by day and by night.
 Thou my soul's shel - ter thou my high tower,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

13

Wa - king or sleep - ing Thy pres - ence my light.
 raise me Thou heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my Pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Holy and gracious God,

C: We thank you, for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. As we leave this table, send us out with hands ready to serve, hearts ready to love, and eyes ready to discover your presence in every place. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN UM HYMNAL NO. 2153** (see next page)

I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me

*BENEDICTION

L: Go now as detectives of the faith—not because the case is solved, but because the mystery of God is alive all around you.

P: Go as living sacrifices—with minds renewed, hearts transformed, and hands ready to serve.

L: Go onto sacred ground—into schools and workplaces, into homes and playgrounds, into every messy middle of life—trusting that God is already there.

P: And may the love of God surround you, the grace of Christ sustain you, and the power of the Spirit send you— today and always.

ALL: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Sunday School March

arr. Schrader

References

¹The 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—Jennifer Damon, Tori Everhart, Nancy & Jeff Sleeper

Liturgist— Deb Herlocker

Tech Team— George DeMers, Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch


*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

arr. Wendell Whalum

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. I'm gon-na	live so	God can	use me_____	an-y -
2. I'm gon-na	work so	God can	use me_____	an-y -
3. I'm gon-na	pray so	God can	use me_____	an-y -
4. I'm gon-na	sing so	God can	use me_____	an-y -

6



- where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____	I'm gon-na	live so	God can
- where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____	I'm gon-na	work so	God can
- where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____	I'm gon-na	pray so	God can
- where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____	I'm gon-na	sing so	God can

12



use me_____	an-y - where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____
use me_____	an-y - where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____
use me_____	an-y - where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____
use me_____	an-y - where, Lord,_____	an-y - time!_____