

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

October 12, 2025

9:45 AM

Sacred Stones: Building Faith in the Places God Meets Us*
Spaces of Renewal

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
INTRODUCTION TO THEME

PRELUDE *Morning Songs* arr. Tate

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, people of God, ready to build your faith.

C: We are living stones, gathered in God's house.

L: God takes away our hearts of stone.

C: God gives us hearts of flesh.

L: God washes us with clean water.

C: God renews our spirits.

L: Come, let us worship the God of renewal.

C: We worship the One who makes all things new.

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable as we start this new day turning our hearts to God in praise.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

Ruth Duck

Carl P. Daw, 1989; Jack Schrader

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daugh - ters, Where your
 2. We who bring them long for nur - ture, by your
 3. Oh, how deep your ho - ly wis - dom un - i -

4

cleans-ing wa-ters flow. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple bless as
 milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak-ing, cup of
 - mag-ined all your ways. To your name be glo - ry, hon - or with our

8

Christ blessed long a - go. Weave them gar - ments bright and
 bles - sing, liv - ing bread. God re - new us, guide our
 lives we wor-ship, praise. We your peo - ple stand be -

11

spark - ling, com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a -
 foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares. One with
 - fore you, Wa - ter washed and Spir - it born. By your

14

- noint them, send your Spir - it, Ho - ly Dove and heart's De - light.
 Christ in liv - ing, dy-ing, by your Spir - it, chil-dren, heirs.
 grace our lives we of - fer. Re-cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we grow weary and hardened. Our hearts become heavy with bitterness, our spirits dry from worry and fear. Forgive us, O God. Pour out Your Spirit upon us. Take away our stony hearts and give us hearts alive with Your love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: God's Spirit renews us, softens our hearts, and restores our souls.

C: In Christ, we are forgiven and renewed. Thanks be to God!

ACT OF PRAISE

Spaces of Renewal (to the tune of the Doxology)

ALL SING: Praise God who breathes new life again, Revives the soul and heals our pain; From hearts of stone to hearts set free, Renewed in love eternally.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 36:24-28 (CEB)

SERMON

INVITATION INTO RITUAL

SPECIAL MUSIC

Down to the River to Pray

African-American Spiritual

BLESSING OVER THE STONES OF RENEWAL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please note that during the prayers of the people there will be a time for individuals to name aloud their joys and concerns as invited by our liturgist.)

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.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Home Across the River Medley

arr. Labenske

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

L: Generous God, here are our gifts of time; here are our gifts of talents; here are our gifts of money; building stones for Your Kingdom, awaiting shaping and placing within Your loving purpose.

C: Amen.

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

Down In My Heart

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Rain Down

by Cortez

References

¹The Offertory Prayer is written by Rev Dr Derek Browning, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Welcome Team Members—Tori Everhart, Barb Stebbins

Guest Preacher—Michael Maletz

Liturgist—Stella Fletcher

Tech Team—Jack Herlocker, Ron Miles, & John Schriver

*The brick graffiti wall symbolizes the strength of a community built stone by stone, brick by brick. Though bricks are shaped by human hands and stones by the earth itself, together they remind us that God works through both the natural and the crafted to build sacred spaces. Each week, a new word will be added, proclaiming God's presence in our life together and marking this wall as a holy witness to faith. Thank you to the altarscape team for their visioning and sharing of gifts to make our Sanctuary space a beautiful offering to God in this season: Jodi Bender, Danika Dallam, Cindy Hogentogler, Barb Neff, & Melody Stine.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
 2. I've got the peace that pass - eth un - der - stand - ing
 3. I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,

3
 down in my heart, down in my heart,
 down in my heart, down in my heart,
 down in my heart,

5
 down in my heart; I've got the
 down in my heart; I've got the
 down in my heart; I've got the

6
 joy, joy, joy, joy,
 peace that pass - eth un - der - stand - ing
 love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus
 down in my heart,
 down in my heart,
 down in my heart,

8
 down in my heart to stay.
 down in my heart to stay.
 down in my heart to stay.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.