

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
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October 19, 2025

:45 AM

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

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

INTRODUCTION TO THEME

PRELUDE (sung by the Children's Choir)

Big, Big House

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

L: Christ is our cornerstone.

C: We are built upon His love.

L: The Spirit sends us as living witnesses.

C: Our lives proclaim God's marvelous light.

L: Come, let us worship the God who sends us.

C: We worship the One who builds us up and sends us out.

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

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel J. Stone

Samuel S. Wesley

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion yet one o'er all the
 3. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu-mult of our
 4. Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three in

5



Lord; we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the
 earth, one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one
 war, we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er -
 One, and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is

9



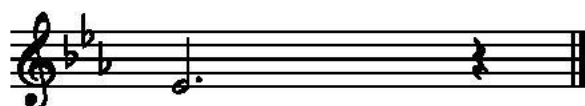
word; From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us
 birth, one name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food to
 - more; Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long-ing eyes are
 won. O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that

13



free; with pre-cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni -
 share, to one hope we are press-ing, at one in work and
 blessed, and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at
 we, like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal -

17



- ty.
 prayer.
 rest.
 - ly.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Stone of ages,

C: we confess that we sometimes resist Your building. We choose isolation over community, fear over trust, self over service. Forgive us, O God. Set us again upon Christ the cornerstone, and send us as living stones to bear Your love in the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear the good news: In Christ, the cornerstone, we are made strong. You are forgiven and made new. We all are forgiven, renewed, and sent.

C: Thanks be to God!

ACT OF PRAISE

Spaces of Sending (to the tune of the Doxology)

ALL SING: Praise God, the strong foundation sure, Whose living stones shall still endure; Sent forth in love, God's work begun, Till earth and heaven are joined as one.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2:4-10 (CEB)

SERMON

BLESSING OVER THE STONES

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW NO. 652 (see next page)

Built on a Rock

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Built on a Rock

Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2. Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3. Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4. Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
 5. Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are

7
 fall - ing; cum - bled have spires in ev' - ry land,
 dwell - ing; high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands,
 - ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones,
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name,
 ring - ing; man - y may come to hear your Word,

13
 bells still are chim - ing and call - ing, call - ing the young and
 all earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in
 grant - ing us life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will
 faith in our Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his
 who here this prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my

19
 old to rest, call - ing the souls of those dis - tressed,
 heav'n a - bove deigns to a - bide with us in love,
 seek his face, he in their midst will show his grace,
 Spir - it sent, mak - ing with us his cov - e - nant,
 own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see;

25
 long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
 my peace I leave with you. A - men."

*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.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Nearer My God to Thee

Adams & Mason

TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

by Westendorf

*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 NO. 82 NCH (see next page)

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

May the Road Rise Up to Meet You

by True

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—Byron & Dawn Almoney, Bob & Kathy Ensminger

Liturgist— Jen Miller

Tech Team— George DeMers, Joe Vacante

*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.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (All Verses)

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a -
 2. Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and
 3. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to
 4. I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you

4

- lone; Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my
 pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can
 me; grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and
 peace; I, the Lord, will smile up - on you and give you

8

own; In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er
 cure. Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry;
 free. Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you;
 peace. I, the Lord, will be your Fa - ther,

11

I have made you mine for - ev - er, Go, my chil - dren,
 here you touched him, saw his glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren,
 here his ten - der com - fort stilled you. Go, my chil - dren,
 Sav - ior, Com - for - ter, and Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren,

14

with my bless-ing, you are peace my own.
 sins for - giv - en, at peace pure.
 fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.
 I will keep you and give you peace.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.