

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mr. Louis Allison, Tech Director
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

October 26, 2025

9:45 AM

In My Father's House
The Porch/Yard—A Place of Invitation

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

GATHERING BLESSING

A Blessing of the Gate

by Jan Richardson

PRELUDE (sung by Debbie Butcher)

The Lord's Prayer

by Malotte

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come to the porch, where God opens the door wide.

C: God's invitation is for all people.

L: Come to the threshold, where strangers become friends.

C: We are welcomed as neighbors in Christ.

L: Come, let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

C: In my Father's house there are many rooms.

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable as we join to praise our God who is always ready to welcome us in.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2. We are the young-our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old-who
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way, see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light-years a-way, but here in this place the new light is shin-ing

brought here to you in the light of this day _____ Gath-er us in-the
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race _____ Gath-er us in-the
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth _____ Give us to drink the
 now is the King-dom now is the day _____ Gath-er us in and

lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in-the blind and the lame; call to us now, and
 rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in-the proud and the strong; give us a heart so
 wine of com-pas-ion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nour-ish us well and
 hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and make us your own; gath-er us in-all

we shall a-wak-en, we shall a-rise at the sound of our name _____
 meek and so low-ly, give us the cour-age to en-ter the song _____
 teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true _____
 peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone _____

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God of welcome,

C: Forgive us when we shut the door on others, when we draw boundaries instead of offering welcome. In your mercy, cleanse us, renew us, and make room for us again.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Beloved in Christ, hear the good news: In God's house, there is always a room for you—there is room for us all. Your sins are forgiven, our sins are forgiven—your life is made new. Walk in the freedom of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

ACT OF PRAISE

Big, Big House

by Blair, McGinniss, & Herdman

ALL SING: Come, and go with me to my Father's house. Come, and go with me to my Father's house.

It's a big, big house with lots of rooms. It's a big, big table, with lots and lots of food. It's a big, big yard where we can play football (Touchdown!). It's a big, big house, yea, it's my Father's house! It's my Father's house! It's my Father's house!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:15-24 (CEB)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY UM HYMNAL NO. 131 (see next page)

We Gather Together

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

We Gather Together

arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us
 3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri -

5
 bless - ing; he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make
 join - ing, or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di -
 - um-phant, and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt

9
 known. The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -
 - vine; so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were
 be. Let thy con-gre - ga - tion e - scape trib - u -

13
 - tress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name he for -
 win - ning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all
 - la - tion; thy name be ev - er praised! O

16
 - gets not his own.
 glo - ry be thine!
 Lord, make us free!

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.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SPECIAL MUSIC (SUNG BY Debbie Butcher)

More Than Wonderful

by Wolfe (Patty)

TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

All Are Welcome

by Haugen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Generous God, in your house there are many rooms, each one filled with welcome, memory, nourishment, renewal, and hope. We bring these gifts to you, trusting that you will use them to open doors, set wide tables, fill hungry hearts, wash weary souls, and guide your people in every step of their journey. Bless what we offer, and bless us as we live as part of your household of grace.

C: Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 2173 FWS** (see next page)

Shine, Jesus, Shine

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

arr. Tate

References

Special Musician—Debbie Butcher

Welcome Team Members—Jennifer Damon, Faye Heal

Liturgist—Tori Everhart

Tech Team— Elaine Bevivino, John Kollasch, Joe Vacante

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Shine Jesus Shine

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Graham Kendrick

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$ **Refrain**

Shine, Je-sus, shine, _____ fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo - ry,

blaze, Spir-it, blaze, _____ set our hearts on fire; flow, riv-er, flow, _____ flood the

Fine

nations with grace and mer-cy, send forth your word, _____ Lord, and let there be light.

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing in the midst of the dark - ness shin - ing;
 2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence from the shad - ows in - to your ra - di - ance;
 3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis - play your like - ness;

Je - sus, Light of the World, shine up - on us, set us free by the
 by the blood I may en - ter your bright - ness, search me, try me, con -
 ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our

D.C. al Fine

truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.
 - sume all my dark - ness. Shine on me, shine on me.
 lives tell your sto - ry. Shine on me, shine on me.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.