

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Louis Allison, Tech Director
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November 16, 2025

9:45 AM

In My Father's House
The Bathroom: A Place of Cleansing & 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

JOYS & CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

GATHERING BLESSING

Blessing of the Bath

PRELUDE ANTHEM

Here I Am Lord

by Schutte

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come to the water, where God washes us new.

C: Here forgiveness flows and new life begins.

L: Come to the fountain, where grace overflows.

C: We are cleansed and made whole 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.

Baptized in Water

Michael Saward, 1932

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

4
blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

7
prom - ise, faith-ful-ly now God's praise we sing.
-giv - en, thank-ful-ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren: joy - ful-ly now God's praise we sing.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

TIME OF CONFESSION

L: God of grace,

C: Forgive us when we cling to stains of the past, when we choose to muddy ourselves with sin, when we resist the cleansing waters of your Spirit, and when we forget your promise of renewal. In your mercy, cleanse us, renew us, and make room for us again.

REMINDER OF GRACE

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elliott Brooks Allison

BAPTISMAL LITURGY

P: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

C: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

P: The scripture tells us, they were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them

C: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

P: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

P: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order. Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

C: This is the water of baptism. Out of the water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ members of Christ's body.

P: God's love and grace is for us. We are here today to declare that God loves Elliott Brooks and to offer ourselves as instruments of that love in his life.

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

ACT OF BAPTISM

P: Elliott Brooks, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN NCH NO. 351 (black hymnal, see next page)

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

John Ylvisaker

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are
 2. When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you
 3. In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no long - er
 4. I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are

5
 old. I re - joiced the day you were baptized, to see your life un -
 on; You were raised to praise the liv - ing God, to whom you now be -
 young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I've be -
 old. I re - joiced the day you were baptized, to see your life un -

9
 - fold. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you
 - long. Should you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as
 - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry
 - fold.

13
 well; I'll be there in case you wander off and find where de-mons dwell.
 one, I'll be there to make your vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun.
 eyes, I'll be there as I have al-ways been with just one more sur - prise.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Ronald Cole-Turner

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the
 2. Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion,
 3. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from
 4. Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose

4

Spir-it's sign; With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and
 loved in-deed! Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and
 God you came. Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who
 child you are. Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God

8

grace di - vine.
 laugh - ter lead.
 bears Christ's name.
 more than all.

*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.

TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP
OFFERTORY

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹**

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** (see next page)

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

***BENEDICTION**

P: Go now, beloved of God, from the waters of renewal, and live as one washed and made new in Christ. Wherever this week takes you, know that Christ prepares a place for you, the Spirit goes with you, and the love of God makes every space home.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Welcome Team Members—John & Connie Wolfe

Liturgist—Carol Hartman

Tech Team—Elaine Bevivino, Ron Miles, & Joe Vacante

¹Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

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Piano 

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

5



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

9



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-ev-er,
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his glo-ry.
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here his ten-der com-fort stilled you.
 I, the Lord, will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-for-ter, and Broth-er.

13



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

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.