

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
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January 25, 2026

9:45 AM

In My Feels: Overwhelmed and Weary
Installation & Ordination of New Council Members

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

PRELUDE

Nearer My God to Thee

by Mason

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved of God, come as you are today—tired, stretched thin, carrying more than you planned.

C: We come with what we have, trusting that God meets us here.

L: Some of us arrive worn down by responsibilities. Some of us are carrying worries that follow us everywhere. Some of us are simply exhausted.

C: God meets us in our weariness and does not turn us away.

L: Even the faithful grow tired. Even the capable feel overwhelmed. Even the strong need help.

C: God reminds us that we are not meant to carry everything alone.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: This is a sacred space—a place to set down what is too heavy, a place to breathe, a place to remember we belong to one another.

C: We open our hearts to God's care and to the support of this community.

L: Come, then, into this time of worship. Bring your fatigue, your questions, your need for rest.

C: We gather to worship the God who meets us with compassion and shares the load we cannot carry alone.

L: Because God meets us with compassion and does not ask us to carry everything alone, we respond with praise and trust.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 488** (black hymnal, see below)

Be Still My Soul

Katharina von Schlegel, 1752

Jean Sibelius, 1899

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Be still my soul: for God is on your side; bear pa-tient -
2. Be still my soul: for God will un-der take to guide in
3. Bestill, my soul: the hour will soon be here when we shall

6

ly the cross of grie for pain; Leave to your God to
fu - ture days as in the past. Your hope, your con - fi -
be with God whom we a - dore, with dis - ap - point - ment

11

or - der and pro - vide; in ev - ery change God faith-ful will re -
- dence let noth-ing shake; all now my s - te - rious shall be clear at
gone, no grief nor fear, so - row re - placed with joy for - ev - er -

16

- main. Bestill my soul: your best e - ter - nal friend
last. Bestill my soul: the waves and winds still know
- more. Bestill my soul: when change and tears are past,

21

through thorn-y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
how Je-sus' pow - er ruled them long a - go.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us come with honesty before the One who knows our limits and meets us with compassion.

PRAYER OF CONFESSON

C: Merciful God, we confess that we often try to carry more than we were meant to bear. We tell ourselves we must do it all, fix it all, hold it all together. We forget that even the faithful grow weary. We forget that asking for help is not failure. We forget that you created us for community, not isolation.

L: When the work feels heavy and our strength feels thin—

C: We turn to you, O God.

L: When we cling to control instead of trusting shared wisdom—

C: We turn to you, O God.

L: When we push ourselves beyond what is healthy and ignore the gifts you have placed in others—

C: Forgive us, and lead us into wiser ways.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear the good news. God does not meet us with disappointment, but with care. God does not shame our limits, but honors them. God does not ask us to carry the burden alone. In Christ, you are forgiven, In Christ, we all are forgiven, freed from what was never ours to hold, and invited into shared life and shared leadership.

C: Thanks be to God.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 449 (black hymnal, vs. 1 & chorus)

Softly and Tenderly

ALL SING: Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; See at the portals Christ waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home, All you are weary, come home; Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling—calling, “O sinner, come home!”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 18:13-24 (CEB)

SERMON

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

What a Covenant

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887

Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

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Piano ♩ = 80

1. What a cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine,
 2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way,
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

3

lean - ing on the ev-er - last - ing arms. What a bless - ed-ness,
 lean - ing on the ev-er - last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path
 lean - ing on the ev-er - last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace

6

what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er - last-ing arms. Lean-ing, lean-ing,
 grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er - last-ing arms.
 with my Sav - ior near, lean-ing on the ev-er - last-ing arms.

11

safe and se-ure from all a-arms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev-er -

16

- last-ing arms.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

INSTALLATION & ORDINATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION

Moderator: Members of Mt. Zion, this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. In gratitude for their service, do you promise to partner with them, to honor their leadership and assist them, that together we would be a church faithful to Jesus Christ, if so, please say, "We do."

ALL: We do.

ACT OF ORDINATION

PRAYER

SIGN OF ACCLAMATION

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

by Larson

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

It is Well With My Soul

by Bliss

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray. Generous God,

ALL: You know the many ways we give —through time and talent, care and compassion, presence and prayer. Receive these gifts we offer today. Use them to lighten heavy loads, to strengthen weary hearts, and to make your love known in this place and beyond.

We place all that we have in your care, trusting that you will bless it, multiply it, and use it for good. We offer these gifts with gratitude and hope, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Harry Emerson Fosdick, Joseph M. Martin

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Guide me, O my great Je - hov - ah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

4

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub-side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

8

power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

11

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Go Forth in Triumph

by Ritter

Thank you to the worship choir for enhancing the worship service with their talents this morning!

Welcome Team Members— Jess & Nancy Smith

Liturgist— Connie Wolfe

Tech Team— George DeMers

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.