

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

February 22, 2026

9:45 AM

First Sunday in Lent
On the Way: Wandering Hearts and Shared Valleys
Wandering Heart: Jesus Sought Me¹

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!

WORDS OF WELCOME
JOYS & CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

LENTEN POEM²

All This Time

by Rev. Sarah Speed

PRELUDE (sung by Caitlin Damon & Travis Pinci)

The Prayer

by Sager & Foster

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath.
Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

C: for Christ is here. God never stops seeking us.

L: We have been found.

C: Let us find God in return. Let us worship the God of deep waters. Amen.

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable as we join in song to praise our God.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***OPENING HYMN**

As the Deer/You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Verse 1

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

Chorus 1

You alone are my strength my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

Verse 2

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything.

Chorus 1

You alone are my strength my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

Verse 3

Lord, You have come to the lakeshore,
Looking neither for wealthy or wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly.

Chorus 2

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By your side I will seek other seas.

Verse 4

You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving friend,
as thus you call me.

Chorus 2

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By your side I will seek other seas.

Ending

You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Divine for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter's boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. And it is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who's in his boat.

Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Loving God,

C: You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN OF TURNING NO. 459 (black hymnal, v. 3) *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

ALL SING: O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known: Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY DINGALINGS

When I Survey

Traditional

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

L: Creator God,

C: You hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables. You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE SERMON

Luke 5:1-11 (CEB)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: I invite you to stand as comfortable to profess our faith in a God who seeks us, surprise us, and always invites us to follow:

C: I believe in a God of abundance—a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope. I believe in a God who comforts—a God who says, “Do not be afraid;” a God who joins me in life's deep waters.

I believe in a God who invites— a God who says, “Follow me,” and, “You will be fishers of people.” I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—a God of second chances and boundless mercy; a God who calls us by name. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Verse 1

When I wake up, well, you know I'm gonna go
I'm gonna go into the wilderness with you.
When I go out, yea, you know I'm gonna walk,
I'm gonna walk along the desert road with you.
If I'm hungry, well, you know I'm gonna search,
I'm gonna search for bread that only comes from you.
And if I'm thirsty, yea, I know I'm gonna find
An everlasting stream of water come from you.

Chorus

Yes, I would walk 500 miles and I would walk 500 more
Just to be a little closer to the God who loves me evermore.

Verse 2

When you're with me, well, I know I'm gonna feel
A heart that's burning full of joy that comes from you.
When you're with me, I can now do what it takes
To be a spirit-guided person sent from you.
When I know you, I am more than I could be,
Yes, than I could be if I never walked with you.
When I love you, I can love my neighbor, too,
Because all goodness and all love, they come from you.

Chorus

Yes, I would walk 500 miles and I would walk 500 more
Just to be a little closer to the God who loves me evermore.

Interlude

Da da da (da da da) Da da da (da da da)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle uh da
Da da da (da da da) Da da da (da da da)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle uh da

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Verse 3

When I meet you, let it set my heart afire,
Let my passion and my love be joined with you.
When you feed me with the bread and with the wine,
May I then recognize my risen savior: you!
When you wash me, with the water of your life,
Yes, May I recognize that I am called by you.
And I know that when my heart is set on fire,
It's set on fire by the Spirit that is you
It's set on fire by the Spirit that is you.

Chorus

Yes, I would walk 500 miles and I would walk 500 more
Just to be a little closer to the God who loves me evermore.

Interlude

Da da da (da da da) Da da da (da da da)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle uh da
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Chorus

Yes, I would walk 500 miles and I would walk 500 more
Just to be a little closer to the God who loves me evermore.

Music: The Proclaimers—*I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)*
Words: Julie Holm, Pastor, Brush Valley Fusion of Faith

*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

Jesus, Name Above All Names

by Hearn

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God,

C: you fill empty nets and you fill weary hearts. Bless these gifts we offer today. Use them to seek the lost, to feed the hungry, to bring hope to deep waters, and to remind the world that your love never stops pursuing us. With gratitude we give and receive. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 2062 FWS (see next page)

The Lily of the Valley



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

The Lily of the Valley

$\text{♩} = 110$

Piano

1. I have found a friend in Je - sus, he's ev-ery-thing to me, he's the
2. He all my grief has tak - en, and all my sor-rows borne; in temp -
3. He will nev-er, nev - er leave me, nor yet for-sake me here, while I

4

fair-est of ten thou-sand to my soul; the Lil-y of the Val-ley, in
-ta-tion he's my strong and might-y tower; I have all for him for-sak - en, and
live by faith and do his bless-ed will; a wall of fire a-bout me, I've

7

him a-lone I see all I need to cleanse and make me ful - ly whole. In
all my i-dols torn from my heart, and now he keeps my by his power. Though
noth-ing now to fear, with his man - na he my hun-gry soul shall fill. Then

10

sor - row he's my com - fort, in trou - ble he's my stay, he
all the world for - sake me, and Sa - tan tempts me sore, through
sweep - ing up to glo - ry, to see his bless - ed face, where

12

tells me ev-ery care on him to roll. He's the Lil-y of the Val-ley, the
Je - sus I shall safe - ly reach the goal.
riv - ers of de - light shall ev - er roll.

15

bright and Morn-ing Star, he's the fair-est of ten thou-sand to my soul.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION**

L: Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Days of Elijah

by Paris

¹The Liturgy is written by and adapted from the writings of Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

²Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Thank you to the Praise Team and our soloist, Caitlin Damon, for enhancing the worship service with their talents this morning!

Welcome Team Members— Jim Beyer, Rick Hogentogler, & Bob Katherman

Liturgist— Cindy Hogentogler

Tech Team— Deb & Jack Herlocker, Ron Miles

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.



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