

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

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February 25, 2026

7:00 PM

Valleys of Lent
The Hebron Valley

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 have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come?

C: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

L: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

L: Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

L: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

L: Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared. To you we lift up our eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

C: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy on us.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Near the Cross

arr. Angell

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: Friends, God created us in love, and yet, there are times when we hurt one another and let anger, jealousy, or fear guide our choices. Trusting in God's mercy and grace, I invite you to stand as comfortable and join in confessing our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Loving God,

C: you created us in love, but too often we let sin have its way in our hearts. We hurt one another with our words and actions, just as Joseph was hurt by his brothers long ago. We become jealous. We hold grudges. We let anger grow instead of choosing kindness. Sometimes we even harm the people we love the most. And for all the harm we have caused—that which we know and that which we do not, we are truly sorry. Forgive us, O God. Wash us clean. Help us to begin again.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

L: Hear the good news, people of God. God's mercy is deeper than our mistakes, and God's love is stronger than our sin. Just as God promised, though our sins are like scarlet, they are made white as snow. Through Jesus, our Savior, forgiveness is given freely, grace is poured out generously, and new life is always possible. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven--we all are forgiven. As such, remember this day that you are loved, and you are made new. Amen.

SONG OF TURNING (to the tune of the Doxology)

Valleys of Lent

ALL SING: Valleys of Lent before us loom, Broad vistas fraught with dread and gloom. Good Shepherd, be our help and guide; Safely we travel at your side.

Where brothers strive in jealousy, Valleys of grief ahead there be. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Yes, If you would live in blessedness!

TRAVELER'S CHECK IN: CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 4:1-11

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 37:12-28

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

TIME OF REFLECTION

DRAMA

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (see below)

Glory Be to Jesus

Glory Be to Jesus

Friederich Filitz, 1804-1876

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who, in bit - ter pains,
2. Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3. Blest through end-less a - ges Be the pre-cious stream
4. A - bel's blood for ven-geance Plead-ed to the skies;
5. Oft as earth ex - ul - ting Wafts its praise on high,
6. Lift we then our voi - ces Swell the migh-ty flood;

5



Poured for me the life - blood From his sa-cred veins.
Blest be his com-pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.
Which from end-less tor - ment Did the world re - deem.
But the blood of Je - sus For ur par-don cries.
An - gel hosts re - joi - cing Make their glad re - ply.
Lou - der still and lou - der Praise the pre-cious blood.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: You know everything, O God; you know the secret thoughts of our hearts.

Deliver us from the harm we cause, O God of our salvation,

C: And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.

L: Deliver us from the envy that turns to hatred, the rage that blinds our eyes and stops our ears, the selfishness that clogs our hearts and freezes our consciences. Deliver us from the harm we cause, O God of our salvation,

C: And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.

L: Let war and strife give place to peace and concord throughout the world, and

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

make us instruments of your peace, those who work for life in the midst of the death that surrounds us. For all humanity in every place we pray: Deliver us from the harm we cause, O God of our salvation,

C: And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.

L: Turn our animosity into the tender concern of a shepherd, that we may care for the sick and the injured, the hospitalized and the homebound, the lonely and despairing, the frightened and the oppressed, and those who grieve. Deliver us from the harm we cause, O God of our salvation,

C: And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.

L: Bring peace and love to the members of our families so that we may live together as sisters and brothers in your one family. And bring us all together as family in you. Break down the walls that divide, that we may be truly one. Deliver us from the harm we cause, O God of our salvation,

C: And our tongues shall sing aloud of your deliverance.

L: And fit us to join that great multitude which no one can number, gathered out of every race and nation, to sing aloud of your deliverance, O God, through your obedient and loving Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray—and together we share in the prayer he has taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

Lent Medley

arr. Tate

The Lenten offering for both Mt. Zion congregations is Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, which supports the ministry that we share in Chop and Peel.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of mercy, **C: we offer these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our need. Receive them, and receive us, breathing life into what feels small or worn. Use all that we bring to serve your world with love. Amen.**

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Journey to Gethsemane (Valley Verses Week 2)

James Montgomery, 1820

Richard Redhead, 1853

*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. When our hearts with en - vy burn, Teach us, Lord, your
2. In the steps our Sav - ior trod, let us fol - low

4
way to learn; Make us keepers re-con-ciled, each beloved, each God's child;
faithful - ly, Where the sin-less Son of God, went to set us sin - ners free.

9
Lead us from the paths we trod, Back in - to the grace of God.
Mark each footstep in the strife, of the Way, the Truth, the Life.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION** (Isaiah 40:28-31)

L: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

C: He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

L: He gives power to the faint and to him who has no might he increases strength.

C: Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall fall exhausted;

L: But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

C: They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

L: They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L2: Go in peace, you do not walk alone.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Old Rugged Cross

Traditional

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Thank you to the worship choir for enhancing our worship service with their time and talents!

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Welcome Team Members Elaine Bevivino & Becky Hester

Presiding Ministers—Rev. Amy Northridge & Rev. Debbie Mahady

Scripture Reader—Freddie Northridge

Drama Readers— Erin McDaniel (Mt. Zion Lutheran), Michael Maletz (Mt. Zion UCC)

Tech Team—Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, & John Kollasch

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