

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

March 11, 2026
7:00 PM

Valleys of Lent
The "Valley" of the Winepress

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

Be Still My Soul

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.

***GATHERING HYMN (see next page)**

On Eagle's Wings

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

Michael Joncas

Verse 1



1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a - bide in his



1. shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: "My ref-uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

to Refrain

Refrain



And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the



breath of dawn, make you to shine like the



sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

to Verses (last time to Coda) ⊕

⊕ Coda



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Verse 2



2. The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring



2. you no fear: un-der his wings your ref-uge, his faith-ful-ness your shield.

to Refrain

Verse 3



3. You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



to Refrain

Verse 4



4. For to his an-gels he's giv-en a com-mand to



4. guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



4. bear you up, lest you dash your foot a-gainst a stone.

to Refrain

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: Friends, God created us and calls us His own, and yet so often we hide away from our calling to be Christ's disciples and we hide our gifts instead of using them to share Christ's love. 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: in the "valley" of the winepress, Gideon was feeling hard-pressed by his situation. Enemies were all around him, and he was feeling alone. We, too, are hard-pressed by the trials and tribulations of life, and we feel alone sometimes. And in that loneliness we often make choices that push us even further from you and others. Forgive us. Help us to remember that you are always with us, O Lord. Give us strength to fight against those things that separate us from you, and help us defeat them by your power of love within us. Help us in our daily tasks not to lose heart, but to trust in your will for our lives and your ability to overcome every obstacle that hinders our faith in you. Amen.

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.

Valleys of Lent surround us here, Filling our trembling hearts with fear. Breathe on us, Lord; behold our strife; Breathe on us with your breath of life.

TRAVELER'S CHECK IN: CHILDREN'S SERMON

ADULT PASSPORT QUESTION: *Where do I feel small or hidden-and what might God still be calling forth in me?*

KID PASSPORT QUESTION: *What is something special or brave about me- even if I don't always notice it?*

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Just As I Am

Charlotte Elliott, 1836

William B. Bradbury, 1849

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Just as I am, with - out one
 2. Just as I am, though tossed a -
 3. Just as I am, you will re -
 4. Just as I am, your love un -

5
 plea but that your blood was shed for
 - bout with man - y a con - flict, many a
 - ceive, will wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re -
 - known has bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier

9
 me, And that you called in - vit - ing
 doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise I be -
 down; Now to be yours, and yours a -

13
 me, O Lamb of God, I come,
 - out, O Lamb of God, I come,
 - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come,
 - lone, O Lamb of God, I come,

17
 I come!
 I come!
 I come!
 I come!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: How many enemies we face, O God; how fiercely they may frighten us. Give peace to the faint, O God; renew their strength.

C: Bear them up on wings like eagles.

L: Accompany us through every valley we traverse this Lenten season, and throughout our lives. Be present to deliver us from fearsome enemies and slithering temptations; keep our feet from falling, our minds from wandering, our wills from wavering. Give peace to the faint, O God; renew their strength.

C: Bear them up on wings like eagles.

L: With the tender concern of a shepherd, care for those for whom we care, the sick and the injured, the hospitalized and the homebound, the lonely and despairing, the frightened and the oppressed, and those who grieve. Bring them once again to green pastures and still waters, and refresh their souls. Give peace to the faint, O God; renew their strength.

C: Bear them up on wings like eagles.

L: Move the members of these congregations to be valiant in their service, O God. Like the Gideon, open their hearts and make them willing to accept your Word and to obey it. Give peace to the faint, O God; renew their strength.

C: Bear them up on wings like eagles.

L: You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. It is with full awareness of your providence that we dare to pray: "Give us this day our daily bread," and open our hearts and our hands to share our daily bread with those who hunger in this world, that they may join us thankfully in following you. Give peace to the faint, O God; renew their strength.

C: Bear them up on wings like eagles.

L: Let strife and selfishness be removed from among us, and grant to the nations of this earth and their leaders a passion for peace, that all may share your bounty with glad and generous hearts. Give peace to the faint, O God; renew their strength.

C: Bear them up on wings like eagles.

L: Give us grace to follow those heroes of faith who have gone before us, and bring us at last into their presence, and yours, where we shall feast together at your eternal banquet, through our Savior, Jesus Christ your Son in whose name together we now pray—

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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
Kirkpatrick

He Hideth My Soul

by

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.

*CLOSING HYMN (see below)

Journey to Gethsemane

Journey to Gethsemane (Valley Verses Week 3)

James Montgomery, 1820

Richard Redhead, 1853

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. In the steps our Sav-iortrod Let us follow faith-ful-ly,
2. Hidden long in press of fear, Least and last in all the land;

5
where the sin-less Son of God went to set us sin-ners free.
Yet the Lord draws ev-er near, Calls by name and takes my hand.

9
Mark each foot-step in the strife Of the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Small no more, for God has said: "Rise, my strength shall go ah-ead."

*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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

by Converse

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

Welcome Team Members - Becky Hester & Barb Stebbins

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

Scripture Reader — Jackson Markel

Drama Readers — Holly Mitchell (Mt. Zion Lutheran), Carol Hartman (Mt. Zion UCC)

Tech Team — George DeMers, Jack Herlocker, & John Kollasch



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.