

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

April 12, 2026

9:45 AM

2nd Sunday of Easter
On the Way: Wandering Hearts and Shared Valleys
Wandering Heart: Here's My Heart

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! We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! 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 AND CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

LENTEN POEM:

Here's My Heart

by Rev. Sarah Speed

PRELUDE

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

by Bradbury

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus said,

C: "Follow me."

L: Jesus said,

C: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

L: Jesus said,

C: "Forgive seventy times seven."

L: Jesus said,

C: "Feed my sheep."

L: In response, we say:

C: "Here's my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above."

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758

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Piano

1. Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your
 2. Here I pause in my so-journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a -

grace; streams of mer - cy never ceas - ing, call for songs of endless
 come, come to trust, at every turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly
 - new! Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wandering heart to

praise. Teach me some me - lodious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a -
 home. Je - sus sought me when a stranger, wander - ing from the fold of
 you. Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan - der from the love I've

-bove. Praise the mount I'm fixed up - on - it, mount of God's un - fail - ing
 God, Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y precious
 known: Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y

love.
 blood.
 own.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter. Despite being one of Jesus' most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes. He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious.

Friends, we're a lot like Peter. Despite our faith, we make mistakes. Despite our belief, we carry unbelief. Despite our love, we can cause hurt. So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives. God's grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple. God's grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Gracious God,

C: Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news. Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you. You are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends.

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 322 (UM hymnal, see next page)

Up From the Grave He Arose

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Up from the Grave He Arose

Robert Lowry, 1874

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior, wait - ing the
2. Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior; vain - ly they
3. Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior; he tore the

coming day, Je - sus my Lord! Up from the grave he a - rose, with a
seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord! bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord!
(he a - rose)

mighty triumph o'er his foes; he a - rose a victor from the dark do - main, and he
(o'er his foes)

lives for - ever, with his saints to reign. He a - rose! He a - rose! Halle -
(he a - rose) (he a - rose)

19
- lujah! Christ a - rose!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Passport Question: *What is something loving I can give or share?*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Before we hear God's Word for us this day, let us join in prayer to truly hear what God has to say to us this day,

L: God of second chances and new life,

C: we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter, we have had milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days. We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear. So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in. We are listening. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 21:1-19 (CEB)

SERMON

Passport Question: *What part of my heart am I being invited to offer—honestly and imperfectly?*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: I invite you to stand as comfortable to profess our faith.

C: We believe in a God who shows up in our lives— surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways. We believe in a God who cares for God's people— a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended. We believe in a God who took on flesh— a God whose love changed the world as we know it. We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat, calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community. And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.

*HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 181 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

You Are Salt for the Earth O People

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

You Are Salt for the Earth

Marty Haugen, 1986

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written for piano in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score consists of four systems of music, each with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in four columns corresponding to the four verses. The first system covers measures 1-3, the second system covers measures 4-7, the third system covers measures 8-12, and the fourth system covers measures 13-15. The lyrics for each system are as follows:

1. You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the
2. You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the
3. You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the
4. We are a blessed and a pil-grim people: bound for the

4

reign of God! Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the
Cit-y of God! Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the
reign of God! Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the
reign of God! Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the

8

Cit-y of God! Bring forth the reign of mer-cy bring forth the reign of peace;
Cit-y of God!
Cit-y of God!
Cit-y of God!

13

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

*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

My Jesus I Love Thee

by Featherston

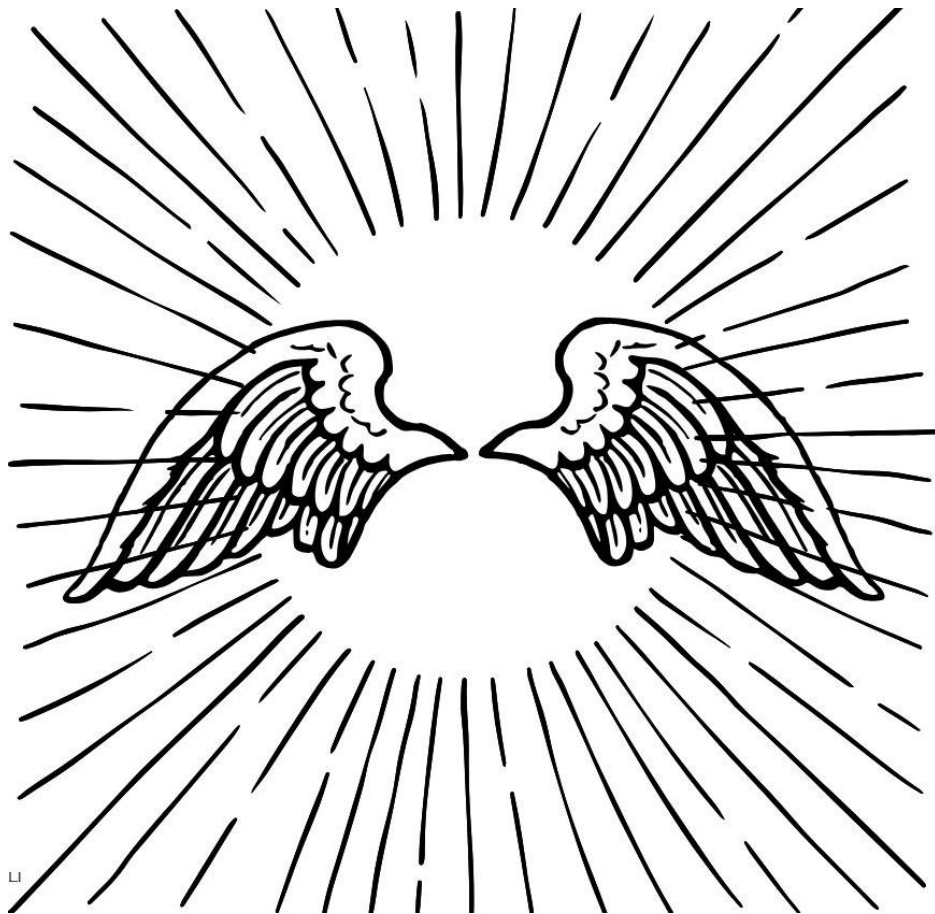
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God,

C: you break open our wandering hearts and teach us that all deserve your grace. 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. 308 (UM hymnal, see next page)

Thine Be the Glory



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Thine Be the Glory

Edmond L. Budry, 1904

G. F. Handel, 1747

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♩ = 120

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son; endless is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught with -

vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scatters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for our Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

where thy bo - dy lay. Thine be the glo - ry, ris en con - quering
 death hath lost its sting. to thy home a - bove.

Son; endless is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION**

P: 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. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Grand Triumphal Chorus

by Guilmant

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

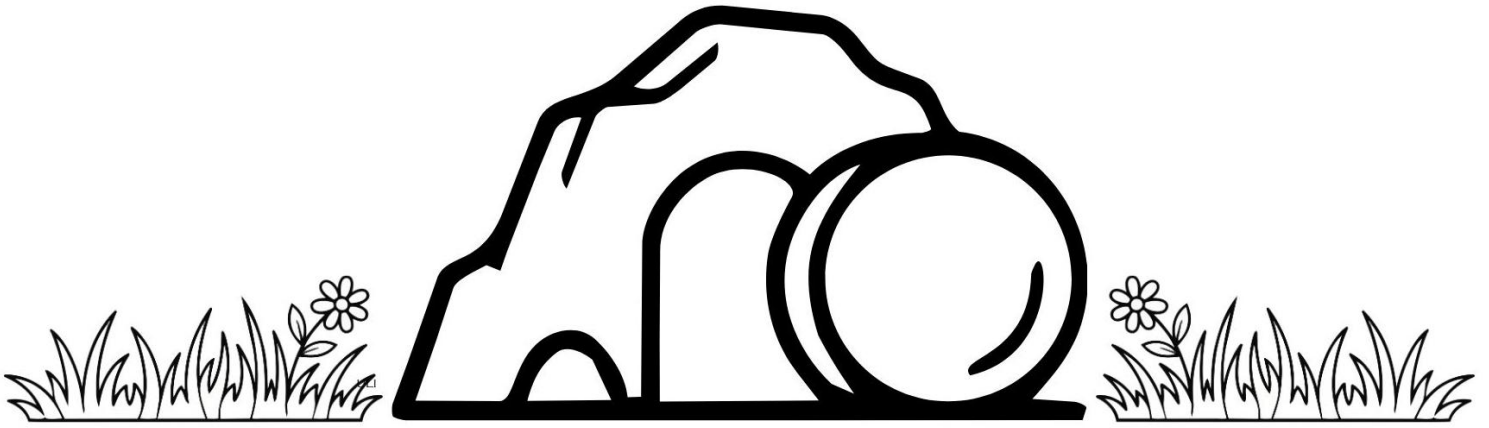
Welcome Team Members— Byron & Dawn Almoney

Liturgist— Brenda Beyer

Poem Reader—Cindy Hogentogler

Tech Team— Elaine Bevivino & Ron Miles

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.



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