

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

May 10, 2026

9:45 AM

**6th Sunday of Easter**  
**Your Heart as Holy Ground**

*Thank you for worshipping 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**

**PRELUDE**

*The Solid Rock*

by Mote

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We come looking for God in this place—

**C: but God is already here.**

L: We come hoping to encounter the sacred—

**C: but the sacred has already found us.**

L: In every breath, in every heartbeat, in every moment—

**C: God is near.**

L: So let us open our hearts—

**C: not to invite God in, but to notice God already within.**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: Let us worship the God who dwells among us—

**C: and within us. Amen.**

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

**\*OPENING HYMN NCH NO. 420** (black hymnal, see below)

*We Praise You O God*

## We Praise You, O God

Julia C. Cory, 1902

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor; in  
2. We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fath - ers; through  
3. With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer, and

grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring. We lay it be - fore you, we  
life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been. When per - ils o'er - take us, you  
glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise. Our sins now con - fess - ing, we

kneel and a - dore you; we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.  
never will for - sake us, and with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.  
pray for your bless - ing; to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: We often search for God in faraway places—in perfect moments, in polished prayers, in lives that feel more put together than our own.

But God meets us here—in the truth of who we are. So let us return to God with honest hearts, trusting that even now, we stand on holy ground. Let us pray:

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Gracious God,

**C: we confess that we often look for you elsewhere. We search for you in distant places and miss you in our own lives.**

**We tell ourselves we are not ready, not worthy, not holy enough for you to dwell within us. We overlook the quiet ways you move in our hearts—in compassion, in courage, in longing, in love.**

**Forgive us for outsourcing the sacred. Forgive us for forgetting that you are already near. Open our eyes to your presence within us. Help us trust that even our imperfect hearts are holy ground. With honesty and hope, we pray. Amen.**

### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Friends, hear this good news: God does not wait for you to become perfect to draw near. God is already with you—within you—surrounding you—loving you fully. There is nowhere you can go where God is not already present. So hear and believe this: You are forgiven. You are held. You are loved. Go forth with hearts renewed and committed to sharing God's love. Amen.

### \*ACT OF PRAISE NO. 2026 FWS

*Halle, Halle, Halleluja*

**Halle halle hallelujah, Halle halle hallelujah, Halle halle hallelujah Hallelujah hallelujah!**

**I am the resurrection live in me. I am the way the truth, follow me. I am the resurrection live in me. Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Halle halle hallelujah, Halle halle hallelujah, Halle halle hallelujah Hallelujah hallelujah!**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:22-31 (NRSV)  
1 Peter 3:13-22 (NRSV)

## SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY (see below, to the tune of "This is My Father's World")

*This is Our Mother's World*

# This is Our Mother's World

adapt. from Maltbie Babcock & This is Our Mother's World from  
Unfolding Light by Rev. Amy Northridge

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

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**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. This is our Mother's world, and to her we be long; all crea-tures great and  
2. This is our Mother's world, and the birds their carols raise; the morn-ing light, the  
3. This is our Mother's world, oh let us not for-get that thought the wrong seems

small are held with - in her gen-tle song. This is our Mother's world: I rest me in her  
li - ly white, de - clare their Maker's praise. This is our Mother's world: she shines in all that's  
oft so strong, love's work is liv - ing yet. This is our Mother's world; the earth shall be re -

care; of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, her pres-ence ev-ery where.  
fair; in rust-ling grass I hear her pass, she speaks to me every where.  
- stored; through truth and grace, in ev - ery place, her jus - tice will be poured.

\*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.**

## SAINTS ANTHEM

*I Can Love*

by Kupferschmid

## TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Mother's Day*

by Combs

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God,

**C: you have already made a home within us. Take these gifts we offer—and use them to extend your presence into the world. Let them bring hope, healing, and love to those in need. And remind us that we, too, are part of that offering. With grateful hearts we give. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 393 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

### **Service Participants**

Thank you to the Saints for enhancing the service with their talents this morning.

**Welcome Team Members**— Deb & Terry Barnes, Barb Stebbins

**Liturgist**— Brenda Beyer

**Tech Team**— Mason Damon, John Schriver, Joe Vacante

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Blessed Be the Tie That Binds SATB

John Fawcett

John G. Nägeli

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The  
2. Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers; Our  
3. We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear, And  
4. When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain, But

8

shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a gain.

**\*BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

*The Strife is O'er*

arr. Hopson

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.