

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

June 7, 2026

9:45 AM

Hymn Sing Sunday

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! Sunday School is currently paused for the summer and will return in the fall. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Traditional
selected by Wendy Kindig

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: Come, let us sing to our God;

C: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

L: Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving;

C: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

L: It is good to give you thanks, O God;

C: To sing praises to your name, O Most High;

L: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

C: and your faithfulness by night,

L: to the music of the lute and harp,

C: to the melody of the lyre.

L: For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

C: At the works of your hands we sing for joy.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

OPENING PRAYER

L: Holy, Creating, Creative God,

C: We sing from the depths of our sorrow. We sing from the abundance of our joy. We sing in voices separate and unique. We sing with one voice as your body. May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song, and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry, be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN (see below)

How Great Thou Art
selected by Tori Everhart

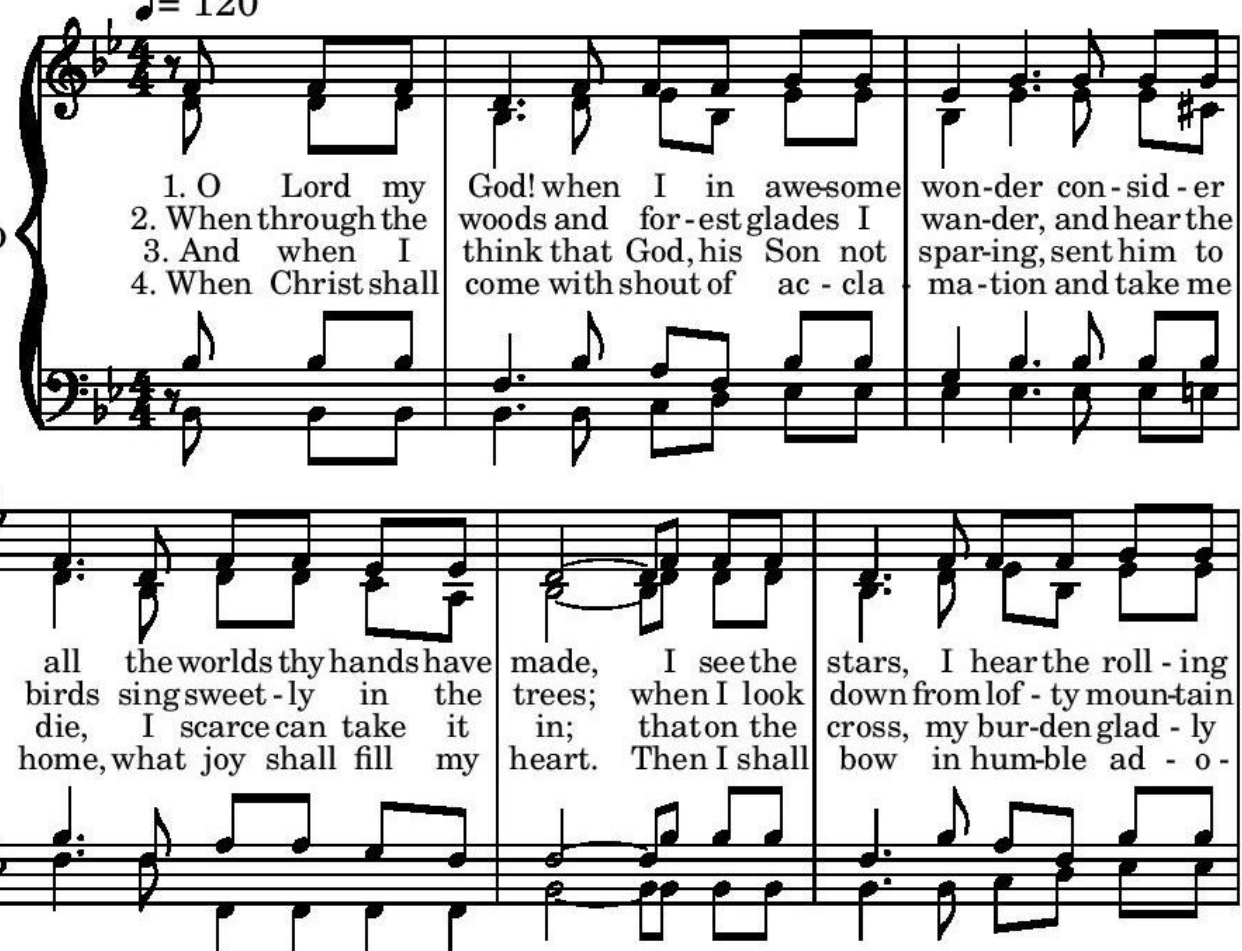
How Great Thou Art

Stuart H. Kine, 1953

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$\text{♩} = 120$

Piano



1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome won-der con-sid-er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, and hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me

all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from lof - ty moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my bur-den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble ad - o -

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

thun-der thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis played. Then sings my
 grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bearing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 - ra - tion and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art;

soul, my Sav-ior God thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS²

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: Sometimes faith feels like singing at the top of our lungs. And sometimes, if we are honest, it feels more like humming quietly... or standing in silence, unsure of the words.

God keeps inviting us into a new song of grace, yet we confess that we often cling to familiar refrains, resist the movement of the Spirit, or keep our voices small when love calls us to sing. Still, this is holy ground for honesty. So let us join in the time of confession together, bringing before God what weighs on us, trusting that mercy meets us here.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: O God,

C: you call us to sing your song anew, yet we confess that sometimes we don't feel much like singing. Sometimes we just want to sing of the past. Other times we ignore the witness of your people singing out through the ages. Forgive us when we trap your good news in our preferred language, when we insist that your grace must be known through our approved tunes, when we limit your story to the good old days. Forgive us when our lips are sealed in protest or in fear. Forgive us when we keep our voices low and our feet firmly planted, refusing to join you in the song and dance of holy life. Open our lips, O God, that we may proclaim your praise. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L: Friends, hear the good news: God's song is older than our memory and newer than the morning. It is not silenced by our fear, nor limited by our favorite melodies. When we grow quiet, God keeps singing. When we stumble over the tune, Christ sings grace over us still.

You are forgiven. Your voice is welcomed. Your heart is invited back into the music of mercy. So, lift your heads, open your lips, and trust this good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and made new.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*ACT OF PRAISE NCH NO. 475 (black hymnal, v. 1 & chorus, see next page)

God's Eye is on the Sparrow
selected by Braden Bicher

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

Civilla D. Martin, 1905

Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six systems of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with some lines spanning across columns. The music features a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

1. Why should I feel dis - cour-aged, why should the shadows come,
2. "Let not your heart be troubled," Christ's ten - der word I hear,
3. When - ev - er I am tempt-ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise,

5
Why should my heart be lone - ly and long for heaven and home, When
And rest - ing on God's goodness, I lose my doubts and fears; Though
When song gives place to sigh - ing, when hope with - in me dies, I

9
God is ev - er my por - tion? My constant friend will be: God's eye is on the
by the path... God leads me but one step I may see: God's eye is on the
then draw close to my Sav - ior, from care I am set free: God's eye is on the

14
sparrow, and I know God watches me; God's eye is on the sparrow, and I
sparrow, and I know God watches me; God's eye is on the sparrow, and I
sparrow, and I know God watches me; God's eye is on the sparrow, and I

19
know God watches me. I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm
know God watches me.
know God watches me.

24
free, God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION³

Praise for the Singing

*HYMN SING

HYMN (vs. 1 & 4, see below)

I Love to Tell the Story
selected by Connie Wolfe

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866

William G. Fischer, 1869

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove. Of
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems than
3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis plea - sant to re - peat what
4. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the
all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold en dreams. I love to tell the
seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the
hun - ger - ing and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when in scenes of

sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true; it sat - is - fies my longings as
sto - ry, it did so much for me; and that is just the rea - son I
sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from
glo - ry, I sing the new, new song 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

noth-ing else can do. I love to tell the sto-ry; 'twill be my theme in
 tell it now to thee. Word.
 God's own ho-ly Word.
 I have loved so long.

glo-ry I'll tell the old, old sto-ry of Je-sus and his love.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Now the Green Blade Rises

John M. C. Crumb

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Piano

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. Now the greenblade ris - es from the bur-ied grain;
 2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3. Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man-y days has lain; Love lives a gain, that
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a gain, Laid in the earth like
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain, Quick from the dead the
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a gain, Fields of our hearts that

with the dead has been: Love is come a - gain like wheat that rises green.
 grain that sleeps un - seen:
 ris - en One is seen:
 dead and bare have been:

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. I come to the gar-den a - lone, while the
 2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so
 3. I'd stay in the gar-den with him, thought the

dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
 sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that he
 night a-round me be fall - ing; But he bids me go; through the

on my ear, the Son of God dis clos - es. And he walks with me, and he
 gave to me with - in my heart is call - ing.
 voice of woe his voice to me is call - ing.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the joy we share as we

tarry there, none other has ever known.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

John Newton

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Piano

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, whose word my hope se-
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing as the
 6. The earth shall soon dis - solve like snow, the sun for - bear to

me!
 lied;
 come;
 cures;
 sun,
 shine;

I
 How
 'Tis
 He
 We've
 but

once was
 pre cious
 grace has
 will my
 no less
 God, who

lost, but
 did that
 brought me
 shield and
 days to
 called me

now am
 grace ap -
 safe thus
 por - tion
 sing God's
 here be -

found, was
 pear the
 far. and
 be as
 praise than
 low will

blind but
 hour I
 grace will
 long as
 when we'd
 be for -

now I
 first be -
 lead me
 life en -
 first be -
 ev - er

see.
 lied!
 home.
 dures.
 gun.
 mine.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Here I Am Lord

Dan Schutte, 1981

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,

5
 All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will break their
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I

10
 stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright. Who will bear my
 hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
 will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

14
 light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 word to them. Whom shall I send?
 life to them. Whom shall I

21
 I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you

28
 lead me. I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Together let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, our creator?

C: I believe in God, creator of all things, whose heavenly song sent the planets into motion. Even when we go astray, God calls us back, showing us the fullness of life and giving us new songs of praise for each and every day.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

ALL: I believe in Jesus Christ who lived for us and among us, healing the sick, easing the burdens of all people, and teaching us the new song of God's kingdom. He showed His love for all God's children in His death and the hope for eternal life in His resurrection.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

ALL: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of life who sings God's grace through all time and space. I listen for the Holy Spirit through the history of songs sung by all the communion of saints and through the unwritten songs of all who are to come in the future. I believe that God has a song for my life as well. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE⁴

L: Let us pray to our kind and merciful God that his love for us may animate all we do and that our love may become contagious. Let us say:

C: Lord, make us instruments of your love.

L: That the Church, the People of God, may never cease to proclaim by its teaching, life and liturgy that love of God and neighbor is the heart of the gospel and that people are God's gift to us, let us pray:

C: Lord, make us instruments of your love.

L: That people may not lose their hearts in today's economic systems of profit, efficiency, production and competition, but that they may keep giving first place to human relationships of friendship and respect, let us pray:

C: Lord, make us instruments of your love.

L: That we may have room in our hearts and homes for refugees and strangers, that we may learn to share our goods and ourselves with the little people loved by God - the poor and the lonely and those who suffer, let us pray:

C: Lord, make us instruments of your love.

L: That those who don't know how to forgive, those who have not experienced much happiness in life or whose longings have not been fulfilled may encounter a bit of God's goodness in our attention and care, let us pray:

C: Lord, make us instruments of your love.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: That in our Christian communities we may uplift one another rather than tear down, accept each other with trust and affection, forgive one another from the heart and go forward together in hope and love, let us pray:

C: Lord, make us instruments of your love.

L: Our gentle God, help us to love you and one another with your measure, that is, without measure, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Please join me as we share together in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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

Because He Lives

by Gaither

selected by Vanessa Bicher

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Gracious God, receive these gifts and receive our gratitude. Use what we bring, and who we are, to share your love, lift weary hearts, and help your song of grace be heard in the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** (see next page)

Joy to the World
selected by Tom Bair

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

George Handel

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♩ = 80

Piano

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her King; Let
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sa- vior reigns; Let men their songs em- ploy! While
 3. Herules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na- tions prove the

ev- ry heart pre- pare Him room and heav'n and na- ture sing, and
 fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re- peat the sounding joy, re-
 glo- ries of his right- eous ness and won- ders of His love, and
And heaven and nature

heav'n and na- ture sing, and hea- v'n and heav'n and na- ture sing.
 peat the sounding joy, re- peat re- peat the sounding joy.
 won- ders of His love, and won- ders and won- ders of His love.
sing
And heaven and nature sing,

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION⁵**

L: We came earnestly seeking God; we go forth having known God in this place. May you know, throughout the week, God's love that is better than life. Praise God with singing lips. Think of the Holy One through the watches of the night. Sing joyfully in the shadow of her wings.

C: Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE

It is Well with My Soul

by Bliss
selected by Melody Stine

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Lana Fritz & Barb Stebbins

Service Leader— Deb Herlocker

Liturgist— Cindy Hogentogler

Tech Team— Mason Damon, Jack Herlocker, Ron Miles

References

¹The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer were written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/> and accessed via Re:Worship on 5/30/26.

²The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Teri Peterson, the Presbyterian Church of Palatine, Il and accessed through Liturgy Link on 5/30/26

³The Psalm reflection “Praise for Singing” & Affirmation of Faith is written by the Rev. Kathleen Henrion, for worship at First Presbyterian Church of Jesup on June 9, 2013 at 10am and shared for use. Accessed on hymn sing liturgy – Presbydestrian on 5/30/26.

⁴The Prayers of Intercession were used with permission from Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration.

⁵The Benediction is used with permission from Spacious Faith and written by Joanna Harader.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.