

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

July 12, 2026

9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip

July 12, 2026: Yellowstone National Park

Seeing God in the beauty of nature as the US celebrates 250 years

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!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE (played by Freddie & Pastor Amy Northridge)

Down to the River to Pray

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 8:3-8)

L: Come, travelers on the road of faith.

C: We gather in God's presence.

L: When we look at the heavens, the work of God's fingers,

C: We marvel at the beauty of creation.

L: When we consider the earth and all that fills it,

C: We remember God's goodness and care.

L: From sunrise to sunset, God's glory surrounds us.

C: We come to worship the Creator of all things.

L: Come, let us worship.

C: Let us worship God.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of creation, today we give thanks for the wonders of Yellowstone National Park—where steaming pools, colorful springs, and faithful geysers remind us that your creation is full of mystery, beauty, and life. As, we gather in worship, open our eyes to your goodness in both the grand moments that inspire awe and the quiet gifts we too often overlook. Prepare our hearts to receive the seeds of your Word, trusting in your steadfast love and abundant grace. May our lives bear fruit for your kingdom. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 131** (UM Hymnal, see below)

We Gather Together

We Gather Together

arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing; he
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, or -
3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - umphant, and

chastens and hastens his will to make known. The wick - ed op - pressing now
- dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine; so from the be - gin - ning the
pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy congre - ga - tion e -

cease from dis - tress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name he for - gets not his own.
fight we were win - ning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine!
- scape trib - u - la - tion; thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord make us free!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS¹**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: In these summer days we rejoice in the gifts of your creation—the beauty of the earth, the playfulness of animals, and the gift of our being—fragile as it may be. Though God’s creation dazzles us with all of its wonder, we have not always done our part to be good stewards of it. Together, let us confess before God the times we have missed the mark when it comes to our own lives as well as caring for creation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: O God,

C: God, we come to you today acknowledging that things are broken. Creation is broken. Relationships are broken. We are broken. But in the same breath we know that you make all things new. Today we pray that your presence would be felt in our brokenness. We ask that through your grace all of creation would once again be made whole. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Hear the great news today; through his life, death, and resurrection—Christ heals what we have broken. Just as quickly as our sins were offered up, they have been forgiven. This day you are forgiven, we all are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*ACT OF PRAISE NCH NO. 4 (black hymnal, v. 1, see next page)

Joyful Joyful We Adore You

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You Verse 1

Henry van Dyke, 1907

Ludwig von Beethoven, 1824

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

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we adore you, God of glo-ry, God of love; Hearts unfold like

flowers before you, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness,

drive the storms of doubt away; Giver of im-mortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

The image displays a piano accompaniment for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system covers measures 1-5, the second system measures 6-10, and the third system measures 11-15. The music features a steady accompaniment in the bass and a more active melody in the treble.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY NCH NO. 425 (black hymnal, see below)

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the Fruit of All Creation

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. For the fruit of all cre - a-tion, thanks be to God. For God's gifts to
2. In the just re - ward of la-bor, God's will is done. In the help we
3. For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God. For the good we

ev-ery na-tion, thanks be to God. For the plow-ing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while
give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our world-wide task of car-ing for the hun - gry
all in - her - it, thanks be to God. For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that

we are sleeping, fu-ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.
and de-spair-ing, in the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
still con-found us, Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC (sung by Freddie & Pastor Amy Northridge) *Thankful* by Forrest Frank

TIME FOR SHARING¹

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY *Seed, Scattered and Sown* by Feiten

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God,

C: we know that you aren't in need of anything we have to offer. However you desire for us to serve you in every aspect of our life. We pray that this offering was not a meaningless ritual but a true act of worship. Bless these tithes and offerings and guide us as we seek to use them to serve you in all of creation. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NCH NO. 528** (black hymnal, see next page)

You Are the Seed

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

You Are the Seed

Cesareo Gabarain, 1979

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a
 2. You are the flame that will bright - en the way, send - ing
 3. You are the life that will nur - ture the plant; you're the

star that will shine through the day; You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a
 sparkles of hope, faith, and love; you are the shepherd to lead the whole world through
 waves in a tur - bu - lent sea; yes - ter - day's yeast is be - gin - ning to rise, a

bea - con to glow in the night. You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the
 val - leys and pastures of peace. You are the friends that I chose for my - self, the
 new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a cit - y to hide, nor a

wheat that will bear golden grain; You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my
 word that I want to pro - claim. You are the cit - y that's built on a rock where
 moun - tain can cov - er its might; may your good deeds own a world in de - spair a

wit - ness - es where'er you go. Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to all,
 jus - tice and truth al - ways reign. path that will lead all to God.

messen - gers of my for - giving peace, e - ter - nal love. Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness,

from the dead I a - rose; "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er, till the end of the world."

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION**

P: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

C: Amen.

***SENDING**

P: Go forth looking for God's blessing and sharing your faith with the world.

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

by Westendorf

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Nancy & Jeff Sleeper

Liturgist— Deb Herlocker

Tech Team— Elaine Bevivino, Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch

Special Musicians— Freddie & Pastor Amy Northridge

Thank you to members of our choir for leading the hymns today!

References

¹The Time of Confession and the Offertory Liturgies are written by Drew Gray

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.