

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

July 19, 2026

9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip

July 19, 2026: Carlsbad Caverns 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

Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone

arr. Labenske

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 Carlsbad Caverns National Park, where a rugged desert landscape gives way to breathtaking caverns hidden beneath the earth. In a place where hidden beauty has been patiently formed over time, remind us that your creation is full of mystery, surprise, and wonder. As we gather to worship you, open our hearts to your Word and your Spirit. Lead us beyond what we can see on the surface, that we may discover the depth of your grace, the breadth of your love, and the new life you are creating within us. Shape us into faithful disciples who trust your wisdom more than our own. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NCH NO. 547** (black hymnal, see below)

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

John Newton, 1725-1807

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
4. My God has prom - ised good to me, whose word my
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing

wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am
fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that grace ap -
read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus
hope se - cures; God will my shield and por - tion
as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's

found, was blind but now I see. I be - lieved!
pear the hour and grace will lead me home.
far. and grace will lead me home.
be as long as life en - dures.
praise than when we'd first be gun.

*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 melodic line in the treble.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:1-22 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (see below)

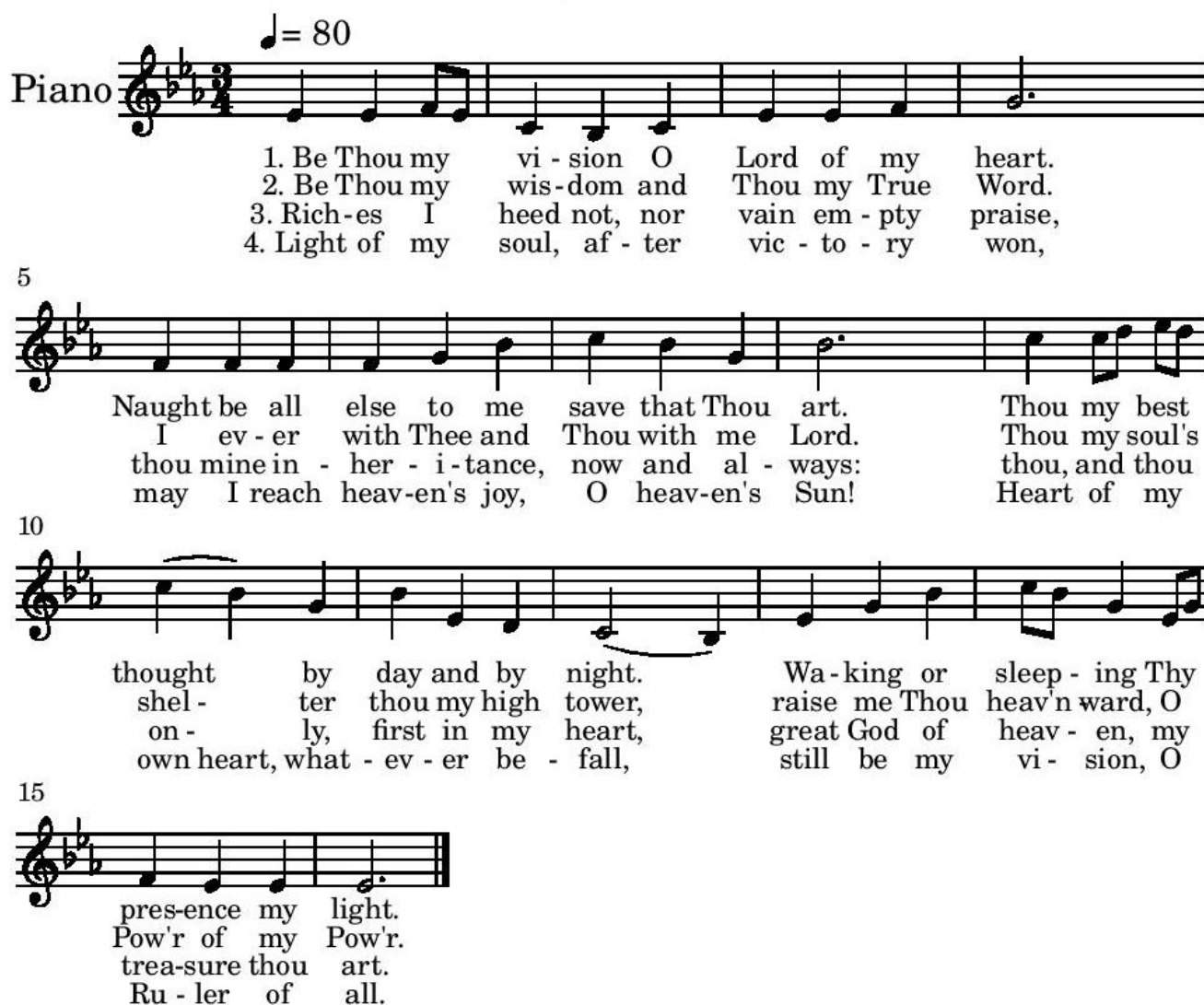
Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou My Vision

Mary E. Byrne, 1905

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

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Be Thou my vi - sion O Lord of my heart.
2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my True Word.
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain em - pty praise,
4. Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

5

Naught be all else to me save that Thou art. Thou my best
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me Lord. Thou my soul's
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou, and thou
may I reach heav - en's joy, O heav - en's Sun! Heart of my

10

thought by day and by night. Wa - king or sleep - ing Thy
shel - ter thou my high tower, raise me Thou heav'n ward, O
on - ly, first in my heart, great God of heav - en, my
own heart, what - ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O

15

pres - ence my light.
Pow'r of my Pow'r.
treas - ure thou art.
Ru - ler of all.

*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 (played by Braden Bicher & Travis Pinci)

You Raise Me Up
by Lovland and Graham

TIME FOR SHARING¹

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY *Twilight Over the Mountains*

by Combs

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. 35** (black hymnal, see next two pages)

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

Carl Boberg, 1885

Swedish Folk Melody

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

$\text{♩} = 120$

Piano

1. O might-y God, when I sur-vey in won - der the world that
 2. When your voice speaks in rolls of thun-der peal - ing, your light-ning
 3. The Bi - ble tells the sto - ry of your bless - ing so free - ly
 4. And when, at last, the clouds of doubt dis pers - ing, you will re -

formed when once the word you said, The strands of life all wo - ven close to -
 pow - er bursts in bright sur prise; When cool - ing rain, your gen - tle love re -
 shed up - on all hu - man life; Your con - stant mer - cy, ev - ery care ad -
 - veal what we but dim - ly see; With trum - pet call, our great re - birth an -

- geth - er, the whole cre - a - tion at your ta - ble fed, (1~3) My soul cries
 - veal - ing, re - flects your prom - ise, arc - ing through the skies,
 - dress - ing, re - liev - ing burdened souls from sin and strife.
 - nouncing, we shall re join you for e - ter - ni - ty, (4) Then we will

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

out in songs of praise to you, O mighty God! O mighty God! My soul cries
sing your praise for - ev - er more, O mighty God! O mighty God! Then we will

*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 discovering God in the unexpected and sharing your light with the world.

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE

Your Grace is Enough

arr. Labenske

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Lana Fritz & Barb Stebbins

Liturgist— Tori Everhart

Tech Team— Jen Miller, Joe Vacante

Special Musicians— Braden Bicher & Travis Pinci

References

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

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.