



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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 26, 2026

9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip
July 26, 2026: Everglades National Park
Christmas in July

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

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.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of all creation, we give you thanks for the wonder of Everglades National Park, where winding waters, towering grasses, and countless creatures remind us that your world is woven together in ways both fragile and beautiful. As we gather to worship today, shape us into people who seek the peace of your kingdom. During this Christmas in July celebration, renew our hope in Christ, who came to reconcile all creation. Teach us to make room for one another, to care for all you have made, and to trust the hope revealed in your Son. In his holy name we pray.

C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 112** (red hymnal, see below)

O Come All Ye Faithful

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Tr. Frederick Oakley, 1841

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. O come all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning

come ye O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold Him,
sing all ye cit - izen of heav'n a - bove: "Glo - ry to God, all
Je - susto thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

born the King of an - gels; O come let us a - dore Him, O come let us a - dore Him, O
glo - ry in the high est; now in flesh ap - pear ing;

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*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 NO. 102 (red hymnal, see next two pages)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Hark the her - ald an - gels sing,
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored;
 3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

"Glo - ry to the
 Christ the Ev - er -
 Hail, the Sun of

new-born King;
 - last - ing Lord!
 Righteous ness!

Peace on earth, and mer cy mild,
 Late in time be - hold Him come
 Light and life to all He brings,

God and sin ners
 To the earth from
 Risen with heal - ing

rec on ciled!"
 heaven's home;
 in His wings.

Joy ful all ye
 Veiled in flesh the
 Mild He lays His

na - tions rise,
 God head see;
 glo ry by,

Join the triumph
 Hail the 'in car nate
 Born that we no

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of the skies;
De i ty,
more may die,

With the angel - ic
Pleased as man with
Born to raise the

host proclaim,
men to dwell,
sons of earth,

"Christ is born in
Je sus, our Em
born to give them

Bethle hem!"
man u el.
second birth.

Hark the her ald
Hark the her ald
Hark the her ald

angelssing,
angelssing,
angelssing,

"Glo ry to the new-born King!"
"Glo ry to the new-born King!"
"Glo ry to the new-born King!"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 107 (red hymnal, see next two pages)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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It Came Upon the Midnight Clear SATB

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with
3. O you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose
4. For lo, the days are of hasten - ing on, by
5. Yet with the woes of sin and strife, the

glorious song of old, From an - gels bend - ing near the earth to
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heavenly mu - sic floats o'er
forms are bend - ing low, Who toil a - long the climb - ing way with
proph - et bards fore - told, when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes
world has suf - fered long. Be - neath the an - gel strain have rolled two

touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
all the wear - y world; A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
pain - ful steps and slow, Look now! for glad and gold - en hours come
round the age of gold; When peace shall o - ver all the earth its
thou - sand years of wrong; And man at war with man hears not the

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heaven's all gra - cious King!" The world in sol - emn stillness lay, to
 bend on hovering wing, And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the
 swi - ftly on the wing; O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and the whole world give back the song which
 love song which they bring; O hush the noise ye men of strife and

hear the angels sing.
 bless - ed angels sing.
 hear the angels sing.
 now the angels sing.
 hear the angels sing.

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 Cody Messersmith & Carly Massino)

Silent Night

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TIME FOR SHARING¹

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of glory,

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 NO. 120** (red hymnal, see below)

Joy to the World

Joy to the World SATB

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	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
<i>And heaven and na-ture</i>											

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

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***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, making room for all in God's kingdom and sharing Christ's light with the world.

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Jen & Mark Miller

Liturgist— Tama Allison

Tech Team— Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, & John Schriver

Acolyte— Jack Bicher

Special Musicians— Cody Messersmith & Carly Massino

Thank you to Cody Messersmith for serving as guest accompanist today.

References

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

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