

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Louis Allison, Tech Director

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August 02, 2026

9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip
August 2, 2026: Redwood 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

PRELUDE (played by Jack Bicher) *Study* by Haskell W. Harr

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,

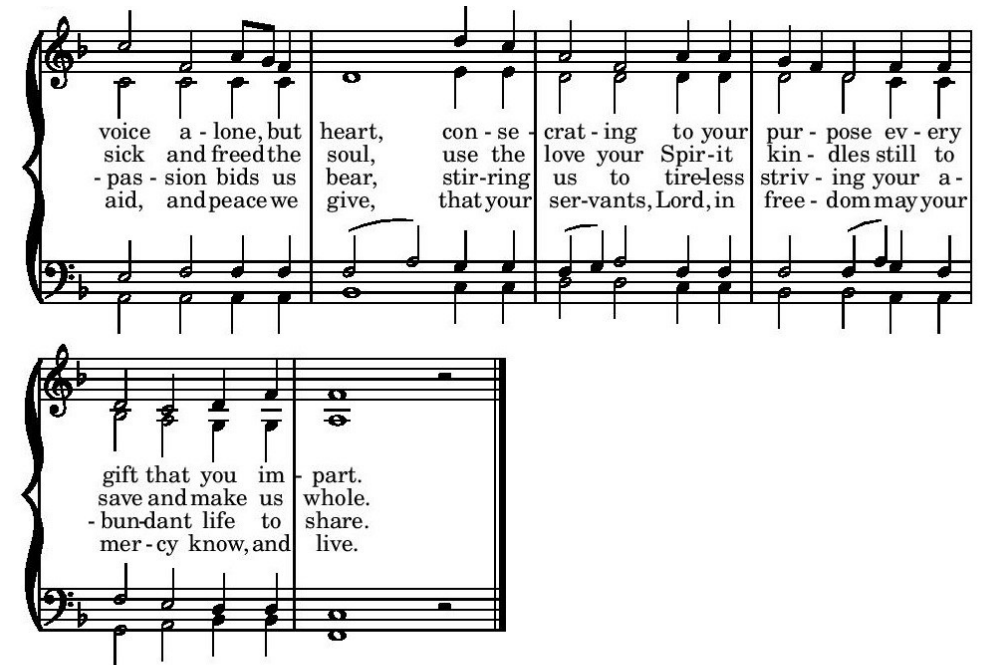
C: We remember God's goodness and care.

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.



***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 in love to serve the world.

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C Major

by Zippoli

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Deb & Terry Barnes, Brenda Beyer

Guest Preacher—Michael Maletz

Liturgist—Tori Everhart

Tech Team—Louis Allison, Mason Damon, John Kollasch

Special Musicians—Braden, Jack, & Vanessa Bicher

Thank you to Michael Maletz for serving as guest preacher today.

References

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

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Albert F. Bayly, 1961 *Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

Piano ♩ = 80

1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice bore the
2. Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the
3. As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your
4. Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in

weight of hu-man need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered
hun-gry cry for bread; still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in
love's re - veal-ing light; in its height and depth and great-ness dawn up -
your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in

mercy's per - fect deed: we, your ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of
grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com - pas-sion healed the
- on our quickened sight, mak-ing known the needs and burdens your com-
liv-ing deeds to show; hope and health, good will and com-fort, coun-sel,

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of all creation, today we give thanks for your presence in Redwood National Park and for the beauty of trees whose roots run deep. As they remind us that true strength begins beneath the surface, deepen our faith and root us in your love. Open our hearts to your Word, draw us closer to you and to one another, and help us grow in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NCH NO. 454** (black hymnal, see below)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Lord I Want to Be a Christian SATB

African American Spiritual

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Piano ♩ = 80

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like

Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my
lov - ing in my heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart.
ho - ly in my heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart.
Je - sus in my heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart. heart.

heart.
heart.
heart.
heart.

*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

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. 17 (black hymnal, v.1 see next page)
To You, O God All Creatures Sing

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

This morning each prayer petition will conclude:

L: Turn our hearts toward one another.
C: Root us in your love.

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 Braden, Jack, & Vanessa Bicher) *Still Waters*
by Gamble, Richards, & Crawford
CCLI Song # 7199601

TIME FOR SHARING¹

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. Labenske

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. 581** (UM hymnal, see next two pages)
Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.
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I Would Be True

Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

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♩ = 80

Piano

1. I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be pure, for
2. I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be giv - ing,
3. I would be prayer - ful through each bus - y mo - ment; I would be con - stant

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there are those who care; I would be strong, for there is much to suf - fer; I would be
and for - get the gift; I would be hum - ble, for I know my weak - ness; I would look
- ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to sense God's slightest whis - per; I would have

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brave, for there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
up, and laugh, and love, and I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.
faith to keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep he path Christ trod.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing v. 1

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

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♩ = 80

Piano

1. To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all cre - a - tion, every -
- things sing your praises, alle - lu - ia! Your burn - ing sun with golden beam, your
sil - ver moon with softer gleams sing your praises, alle - lu - ia, alle - lu - ia, alle - lu - ia, alle -
- lu - ia.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 3:14-21

SERMON

*HYMN NCH NO. 492 (black hymnal, see next page)

I Would Be True

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.