

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
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August 16, 2026

9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip

August 16, 2026: Arches 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 (sung by Mia Abbott)

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 valley low to mountain high, 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 wonder of Arches National Park, where wind, water, and time have shaped towering arches that remind us of both the beauty and the fragility of this world. As we gather in worship, help us to remember that while the things of this earth are temporary, your love and your kingdom endure forever. When life feels uncertain or overwhelming, teach us to be still and know that you are God. Shape us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, reflecting your hope, sharing your mercy, and pointing others toward your everlasting kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 2173** (FWS, see below)

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Shine Jesus Shine

Words and Music - ©1987 Make Way Music

Graham Kendrick

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$\text{♩} = 80$
Refrain
Piano

Shine, Jesus, shine, __ fill this land with the Father's glory, blaze, Spirit, blaze, __ set our
hearts on fire; flow, river, flow __ flood the na - tions with grace and mercy,
Fine
send forth your word, __ Lord, and let there be light. 1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing
2. Lord, I come to your awesome pres - ence
3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness,
in the midst of the dark - ness shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the World, shine up - on us,
from the shad - ows in - to your radi - ance; by the blood I may en - ter your bright - ness,
so our fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er changing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.
search me, try me, con - sume all my dark - ness. Shine on me, shine on me.
mir - rored here may our lives tell your sto - ry. Shine on me, shine on me.
DC. al Fine

*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.

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

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, every -
- things sing your praises, aHe - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with golden beam, your
sil-ver moon with softer gleam sing your praises, aHe - lu - ia, aHe - lu - ia, aHe - lu - ia, aHe -
- lu - ia.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Piano' and the metronome is set to 80. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 46 (NRSVUE)

Matthew 5:13-16 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

***HYMN NCH NO. 181** (black hymnal, see next page)

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

You Are Salt for the Earth

Marty Haugen, 1986

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the
 2. You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the
 3. You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the
 4. We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the

4

reign of God! Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the
 City of God! Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the
 reign of God! Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the
 reign of God! Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the

8

City of God! Bring forth the reign of mer - cy bring forth the reign of peace;
 City of God!
 City of God!
 City of God!

13

Bring forth the reign of jus - tice, bring forth the City of 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 Elliot & Melody Stine)

When You Believe
by Schwartz & Edmonds

TIME FOR SHARING¹

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

For the Beauty of the Earth

Traditional

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 NO. 715** (ELCA hymnal, see next page)

Christ Be Our Light

¹Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Christ Be Our Light

Gofrey Thring, 1823-1903

Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Longing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Longing for
 2. Longing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Longing for
 3. Longing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Longing for
 4. Longing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Longing for
 5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

6
 truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly people,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth-ers,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your building, shel - ter - ing oth-ers,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,

13
 light for the world to see. Christ, be our light!
 Make us your liv - ing voice.
 shared un - til all are fed.
 walls made of liv - ing stone.
 signs of your king - dom come.

20
 Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our

27
 light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

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 as the salt of the earth, helping shape this world with the love of God's kingdom.

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE

Rondo

arr. Hopson

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Vanessa Bicher, Barb Stebbins

Liturgist— Deb Herlocker

Tech Team— Jack Herlocker, Jen Miller

Special Musicians— Mia Abbott, Elliot & Melody Stine

References

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

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.