

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

August 23, 2026 9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip
August 23, 2026: Shenandoah 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

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.

***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, following wherever God leads; making the world a home for God's love.

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members—Nancy & Jeff Sleeper

Liturgist—Brenda Beyer

Tech Team—Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch

Special Musician—Debbie Butcher

Thank you to Danika Dallam and Robin Shriver and our 20/30 Group for showing us God's presence through Shenandoah National Park this week.

Thank you to Cody Messersmith for serving as guest accompanist this morning.

References

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

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Pass It On

Kurt Kaiser, 1969

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,
2. What a won-droustime is spring, when all the trees are bud-ding;
3. I wish for you, my friend, this happi-ness that I've found;

6

and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing.
the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing.
you can de - pend on him, it mat - ters not where you're bound.

11

That's how it is with God's love once you've ex - per - ienced it; you
That's how it is with God's love once you've ex - per - ienced it; you
I'll shout it from the mountain-top; I want my world to know; the

16

spread his love to ev - ery - one; you want to pass it on.
want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of creation, today we give thanks for your presence at Shenandoah National Park, for mountains and valleys, winding trails and familiar places that call us back again and again. You have been our dwelling place from generation to generation. Whether we are resting beside still waters or walking through uncertain valleys, remind us that home is not simply a place we find, but the gift of your presence with us. As you have guided your people through every generation, lead us along right paths, surround us with your goodness and mercy, and help us trust that wherever the journey takes us, we are always at home in you.
C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 3** (FWS, see below) *Wakantanka Taku Nitawa (Many and Great)*

Wakantanka Taku Nitawa (Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works)

adapt. Joseph R. Renville, 1842

Native American melody (Dakota)

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Man - y and great, O God, are your works, Maker of earth and sky;
2. Grant un - to us com - mun - ion with you, O star - a - bid - ing One;

Your hands have set the heav - ens with stars, your fingers spread the mountains and
Come un - to us and dwell with us: with you are found the gifts of

plains. Lo, at your word the waters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
life. Bless us with life that has no end, e - ternal life with you.

*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: God,
C: 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. 383 (black hymnal, v.1 see next page)
Come, Let us Join with Faithful Souls

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 Debbie Butcher)

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. 572** (UM hymnal, see next page) *Pass It On*

¹Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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All Things Bright and Beautiful

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848 *Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

Refrain

Piano ♩ = 80

All things bright and beau ti ful, all crea-tures great and small,

5

Verses

All things wise and won-der-ful, our dear God made them all.

1. Each
2. The
3. The

9

lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings, God
pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run ning by, The
cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas ant sum mer sun, The

13

to Refrain

made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.
sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev-ery one.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls (verse 1)

Wiliam G. Tarrant, 1892 Carl G. Glaser, 1828
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Piano ♩ = 80

1. Come let us join with faithful souls our song of faith to raise; One

6

fam-i-ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 90:1-2
Psalm 23

SERMON

***HYMN NCH NO. 31** (black hymnal, see next page) *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.