

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
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August 30, 2026

9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip
August 30, 2026: Zion National Park
Blessing of the Bags and Blankies
Welcoming of New Members

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 AND CONCERNS

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Dan Cordes & Mara Vasconcellos

Sara Eberly

Doug Fauth

Sharon McNeil

P: And now that you've heard a little about our friends who are joining us today—let us commit ourselves to one another with promises that mirror those of our baptismal calling.

P: Dan, Mara, Sara, Doug, and Sharon: Siblings in Christ, as you join this community of faith at Mt. Zion, do you remember that you, too, are named in love, washed in grace, and welcomed home by God? Do you affirm your desire to grow in faith, to seek God in all seasons, and to walk with this congregation

**Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.*

as God calls you forward? If so, please say—loud and proud so all can hear you— I do, with God's help.

New Members: I do, with God's help.

P: People of Mt. Zion, will you welcome these siblings in Christ, support them with prayer, encourage them in faith, and walk with them through joy, hardship, and every sacred emotional space between?

C: We will, with God's help.

P: As we welcome Dan, Mara, Sara, Doug, and Sharon as new members, we remember the calling we all share through our baptism: to belong to Christ and to one another, to live together in faith, and to join in God's work of love in the world.

C: We give thanks for the gift of baptism and for the covenant we share with God and one another.

P: Beloved of God—newcomers and longtime members alike—you are named, you are known, you are bathed in grace, you are forgiven +, and you are never alone. Remember who you are.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Team Mt. Zion, let us now show a sign of welcome to our newest members.

PRELUDE *How Great is Our God with Praise to the Lord the Almighty* arr. Tornquist

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 your presence at Zion National Park, for towering canyons carved by water, winding pathways, and breathtaking reminders of the beauty of your creation. You have promised a new heaven and a new earth, a world filled with peace, joy, and abundant life. Yet even as we wait for the fullness of your kingdom, open our eyes to the glimpses of paradise already around us. Help us recognize your presence in this moment, treasure the people and places you have given us, and care for the creation entrusted to us. As one journey ends and new ones begin, remind us that wherever the path leads, you are already there, creating, renewing, and making all things new.

C: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood his mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

CCLI Song # 4768151

Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Chorus x 2

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood his mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine

Chorus

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood his mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

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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: 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. 17 (black hymnal, v.1 see below)

To You, O God All Creatures Sing

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 -
- thingsing 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 for piano in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It features a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

This Is My Father's World

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all na - tures sing, and
 2. This is my Father's world, the bird their car - ols raise, the morn - ing light, the
 3. This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems

round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the
 lil - y white, de - clare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's
 oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet. This is my Father's world: why should my heart be

thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
 fair; in the rust - ling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me every - where.
 sad? The Lord is King; let the heav - en's ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad.

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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.

TIME FOR SHARING¹

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus with In Christ Alone* arr. Tornquist

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

Blessed Be Your Name

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name, in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name, when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name

Pre-chorus

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

cont. on next page --->

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name, when the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name, on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name

Pre-chorus

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Bridge - 2 times

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

Pre-chorus

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

CCLI Song # 3798438
Beth Redman | Matt Redman
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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, wherever the road leads, and live so that others may glimpse God's Zion in your midst.

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE

The Canticle of the Sun

by Haugen

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Jennifer Damon & Tori Everhart

Liturgist— Connie Wolfe

Tech Team— Elaine Bevivino, Jack Herlocker, Ron Miles

Thank you to the Praise Team for enhancing the service with their music this morning!

References

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

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