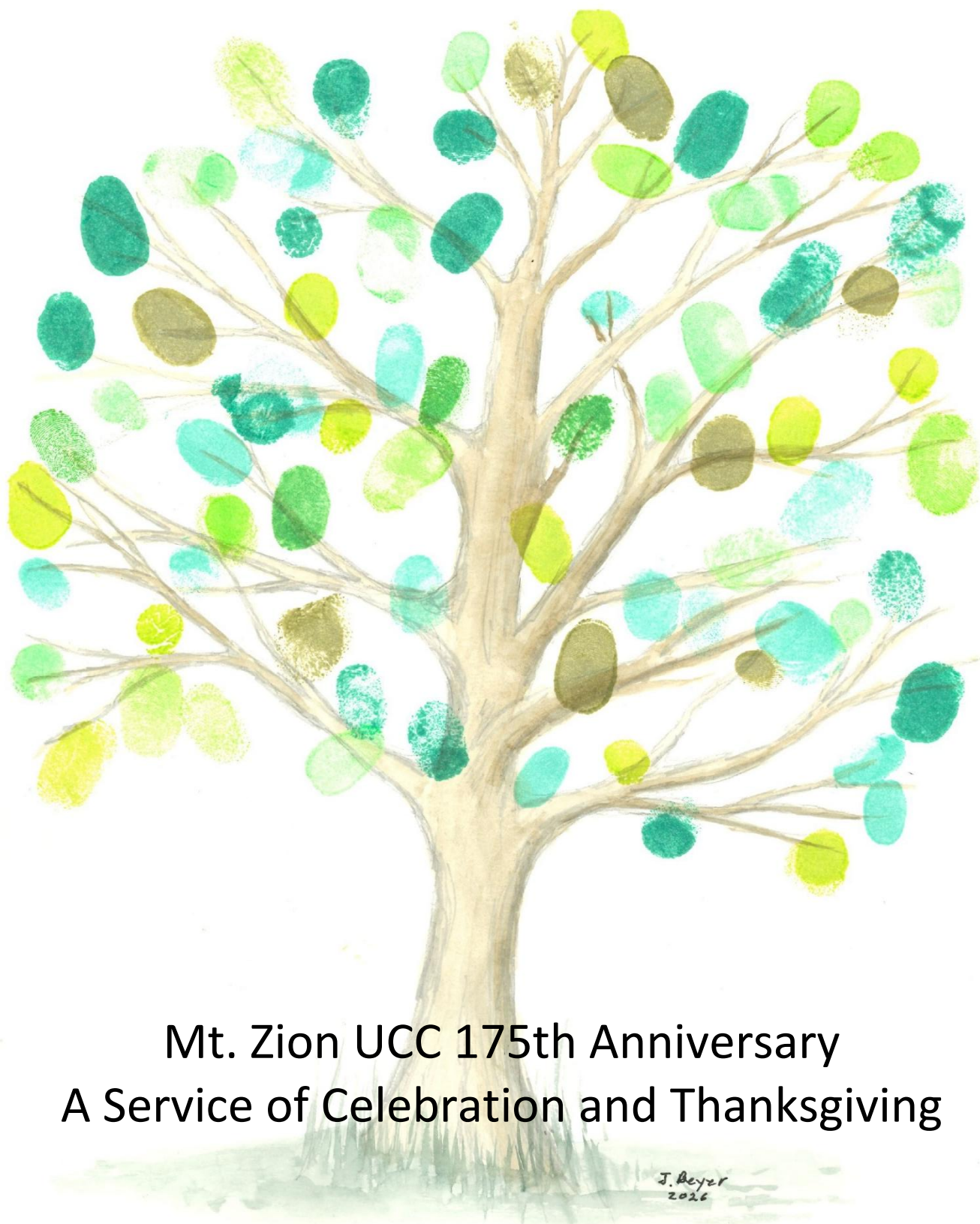




Mt. Zion UCC 175th Anniversary
A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406
Telephone: 717-755-6117
E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org
Website: www.mtzionucc.org

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Louis Allison, Tech Director
Cody Messersmith, Worship Music Director
Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

October 4, 2026

9:45 AM

Home Coming: Home Sweet Home
175th Anniversary Celebration
A Service of Holy Communion

We celebrate 175 years of God's faithfulness. The strength of this congregation has always been its foundation in Christ.

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! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance.

Today we will be communing by intinction—that is the fancy church word for dipping your bread into the cup. We will have two communion stations up front—one on the left and one on the right. Our Welcome Team members will invite your pew forward starting in the front. When you are invited forward—I ask that you come down through the center aisle and return to your seat through the side aisles. We will have a gluten-free station in the center where you will pick up your own elements and we will give you the words of blessing, but we don't want to contaminate your communion with our hands that have touched bread. If you are uncomfortable coming forward this morning but would like communion—we will bring communion to you in the pew, just let the welcome team member know so they can alert us that you are still waiting.

WORDS OF WELCOME

A CELEBRATION OF HISTORY

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRELUDE

Love the Lord Your God

Brenda Beyer
by Stewart

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Danielle Neff

L: Come, friends. Come, neighbors. Come, family of God.

C: Welcome home.

L: Whether this place is filled with memories, or you are making memories here for the first time,

C: welcome home.

L: Whether you have been here every Sunday, or your journey has taken you far from familiar places,

C: welcome home.

L: For homecoming is more than returning to a building, more than coming back to a familiar place.

C: Homecoming is discovering where God has been with us all along.

L: So come as you are. Come and discover where God is dwelling. Come and worship the God who welcomes us home.

C: God is here. We are home. Let us praise our God here and now!

MT. ZION'S AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Jim Walters

L: As we gather in this homecoming, we remember that part of what makes our church a home is the covenant we share with God and with one another. So let us remember our "house rules," as together we affirm the faith that shapes our life at Mt. Zion United Church of Christ.

C: We believe God works through us as a family of faith. We believe God speaks to us through the power of individual and communal prayer. We believe God accepts everyone as a child of God. We believe God provides for us, strengthens us and is present with us in times of joy and sorrow. We believe God forgives us and in forgiveness for one another.

We believe God promises eternal life for those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. We celebrate God's presence with us, which calls us to love and accept one another, to serve others through mission, and deepens our spiritual relationship with one another.

Therefore, we look to the future, with hope and in faith that God provides vision to us as God's people and equips us with the leadership to carry out God's will.

***OPENING HYMN NCH NO. 25** (black hymnal, see next page)

O God Our Help in Ages Past

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past SATB

Isaac Watts, 1719

William Croft, 1708

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. O God, our help in a-ges past, our hope for years to
 2. Un-der the shad-ow of our throne your saints have dwelt se-
 3. Be-fore the hills in or-der stood or earth re-ceived its
 4. A thousand a-ges in your sight are like an eve-ning
 5. Time, like an ev-er-rolling stream, soon bears us all a-
 6. O God, our help in a-ges past, our hope for years to

5

come, Our shelter from the storm-y blast, and our e-ter-nal home:
 -cure; Suf-fi-cient is your arm a-lone, and our de-fense is sure.
 frame, From ev-er-last-ing you are God, to endless year the same.
 gone, Short as the watch that ends the night be-fore the ris-ing sun.
 -way; We fly for-got-ten, as a dream fades at the opening day.
 come, Still be our God while troubles last, and our e-ter-nal home!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: While we gather this day to celebrate a homecoming as we mark 175 years of being your church, we also know that sometimes we wander far from the people God has called us to be.

Sometimes we stay close, but allow resentment, fear, or pride to keep our hearts far away. Sometimes we cling so tightly to what has been that we cannot see the new thing God is doing among us.

Still, God comes to meet us with mercy and welcomes us with grace. Trusting in the love of the One who has been with us all along, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C: Welcoming God, we confess that we do not always make our home in your love. We wander after things that cannot give us life. We hold tightly to what we believe belongs to us. We draw lines between those we call family and those we call stranger. We remember the past with gratitude, but sometimes cling to it so tightly that we struggle to follow where you are leading us next. We long to receive your grace, yet sometimes struggle to offer that same grace to others.

Forgive us, O God. Meet us on the roads where we wander. Open our hearts to your abundant mercy. Give us gratitude for where we have been, courage for where you are leading, and grace to welcome others along the way. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

L: Friends, while we are still a long way off, God sees us. God comes to meet us. God embraces us with mercy and surrounds us with grace. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. We all are forgiven.

Our past is held in God's faithfulness. Our future is held in God's promise. And here and now, we are held in God's grace.

You have a place in the family of God. There is grace enough for you. There is joy in your homecoming.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

¹Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Will L. Thompson, 1880

Piano

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; See at the portals Christ

waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home, all who are weary, come

home

Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling calling, "O sinner, come home!"

-5-

SERMON

Rev. Kevin McLemore

*HYMN OF THE DAY NCH NO. 417 (black hymnal, see below)

This is a Day of New Beginnings

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Les Garrett, 1967

*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line. There are four numbered measures (1, 2, 3, 4) at the beginning of the first staff, and a fifth measure at the beginning of the fifth staff. The lyrics are: 1. This is a day of new be - gin-nings, 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus, 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
step from the past and leave be - hind
to show and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
can make for us a world of dif - ference,
our dis - a - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
This is a day of new be - gin - nings

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
as faith and hope are born a - gain.
seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
our God is mak - ing all things

new.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Amy Northridge

L: Gathered in gratitude for 175 years of ministry, and trusting in the God who has been our dwelling place from generation to generation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A moment of silence is observed.

L: God of generations, today we give thanks for all those who have called Mt. Zion home across these 175 years...For all those who built this community of faith and entrusted it to us,

L: O God, from generation to generation,

C: You have been our dwelling place. Dwell among us still.

L: God of the present moment, we give thanks for the church you are creating among us today...Give us courage to be your church in this time and this place.

L: O God, from generation to generation,

C: You have been our dwelling place. Dwell amongst us still.

L: God whose love stretches far beyond these walls, we pray for your whole church and for this world you so deeply love...And teach us to recognize our neighbors not as strangers to fear, but as people with whom we share this one human home.

L: O God, from generation to generation,

C: You have been our dwelling place. Dwell amongst us still.

L: God who draws near to us in every season, we pray for those who hold sorrow and pain in their hearts despite the celebration of this day...Surround them with your presence, and make us attentive to the ways we might become your comfort, companionship, and care for one another.

L: O God, from generation to generation,

C: You have been our dwelling place. Dwell amongst us still.

L: God of all that is still to come, today we remember that this church was never ours alone...Give us the faith to continue building on a legacy whose future outlives us—the courage to change when your Spirit calls us forward—and the generosity to leave behind not simply buildings and traditions, but a living community centered in the love of Christ.

Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: O God, from generation to generation,

C: You have been our dwelling place. Dwell amongst us still.

L: God of our beginnings and our endings, of everything that has been and everything that is still becoming, we thank you for 175 years of life together...Through Jesus Christ, who makes his home among us and calls us to make room for one another, we pray.

C: Amen.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

A Journey of Faith

by Price & Besig

TIME FOR SHARING

Rev. Amy Northridge

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Marching to Zion

by Watts

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Generous God,

C: you have given us a place to belong and people with whom to share the journey. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude for all that has been, our commitment to the work you have given us today, and our hope for all that is still to come.

Use what we offer to share your love, widen your welcome, and build a community where all your children may find a place to belong. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Danielle Neff

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING CHRIST'S STORY

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

One Bread, One Body

Jon B. Foley, 1978

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♩ = 80
Refrain

Piano

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all, one cup of

7
bless-ing which we bless. And we, though man-y through-out the

13
earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.

1. Gen-tile or
2. Man - y the
3. Grain for the

20
Fine

Jew, ser-vant or free, wo-man or man, no more. One
gifts, man - y the works, one in the Lord of all.
fields, scat-tered and grown, gath-ered to one, for all.

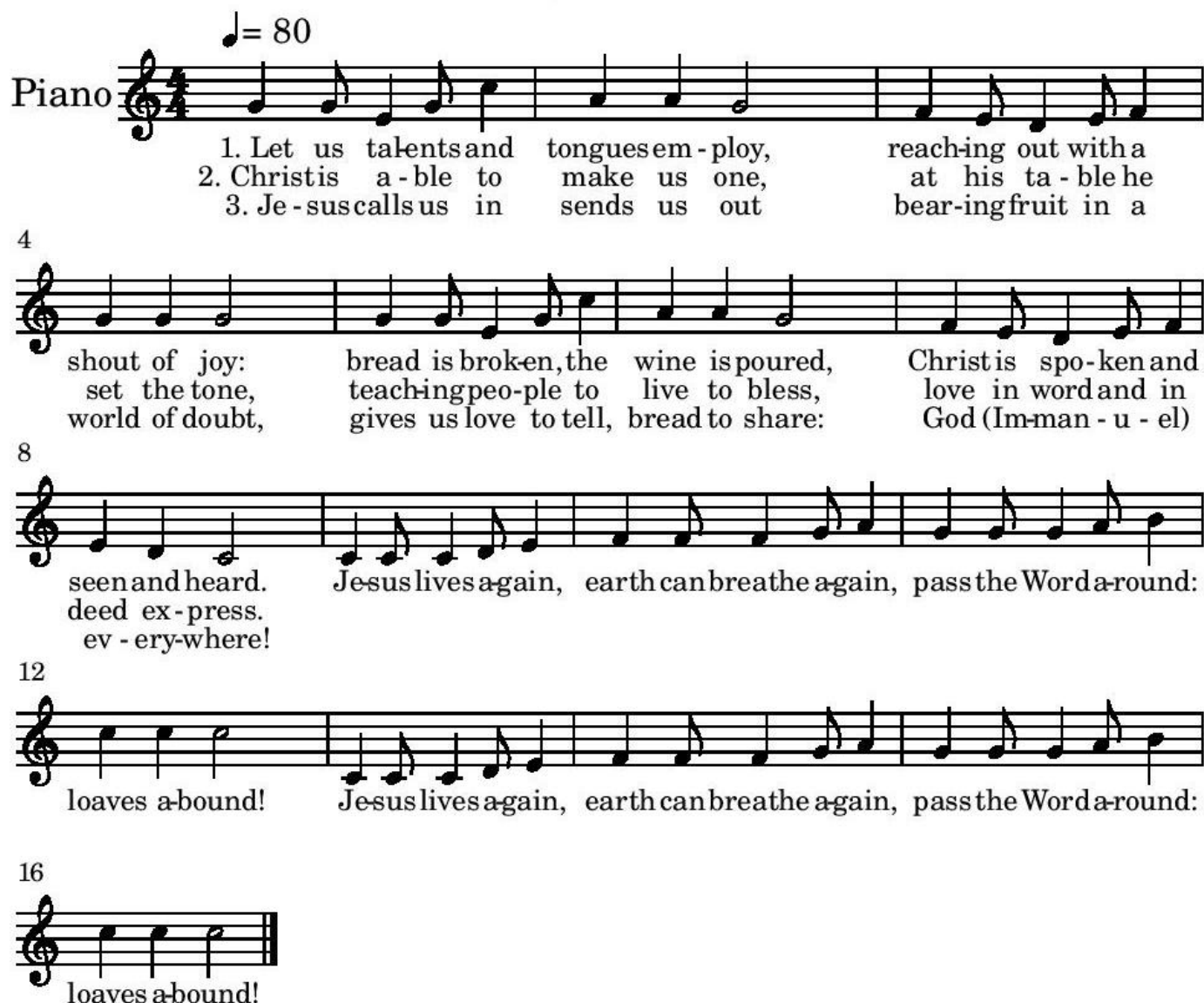
*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Adapt. Doreen Potter

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a
 2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he
 3. Je - sus calls us in sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

4
 shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and
 set the tone, teaching peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el)

8
 seen and heard. deed ex - press. ev - ery - where!
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word a - round:

12
 loaves a - bound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word a - round:

16
 loaves a - bound!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Let Us Break Bread Together

John Johnson

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; let us
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; let us
 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; let us

6
 break bread to - geth - er on our knees. When I fall on my
 drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

11
 knees, with my face to the rising sun, my God, have mercy on

16
 me.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

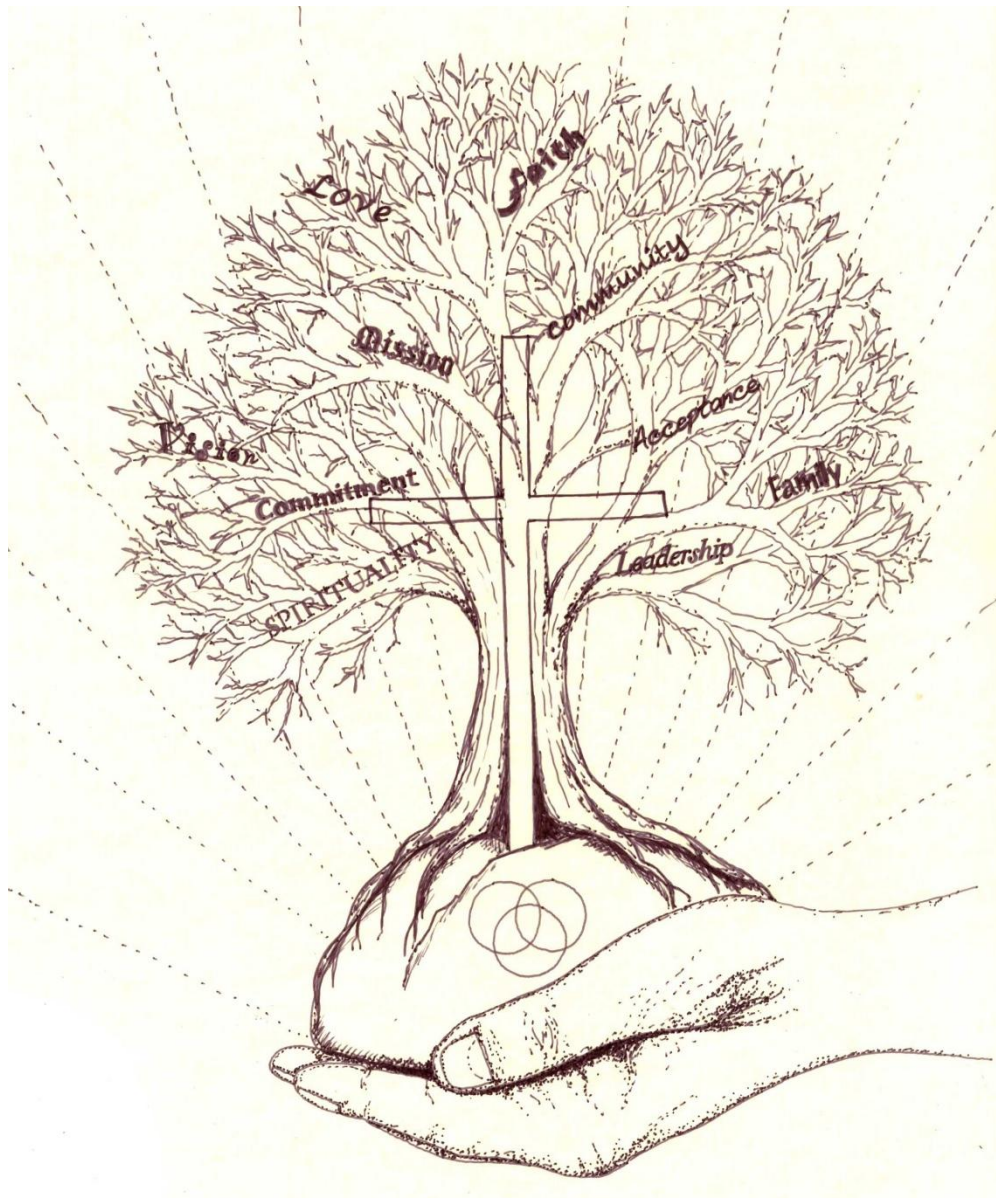
L: Welcoming God,

C: you have met us at this table and fed us with the gifts of your grace. As we leave this meal, keep us from believing that home is only a place behind us. Help us carry your welcome wherever we go.

May the grace we have received here become grace we offer to others. May the place we have found at your table make us eager to make room for our neighbors. And may this meal strengthen us for every road on which you will lead us next. For wherever we go, you have promised to go with us. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NCH NO. 526** (black hymnal, see next two pages)

We Are Marching in the Light of God



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

We Are Marching in the Light of God (Homecoming Verses)

South African Hymn

*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

Piano

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.
 2. We are prais - ing in the house of God, we are prais - ing in the house of God.
 3. We are danc - ing in the joy of God, we are danc - ing in the joy of God.
 4. We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.
 We are prais - ing in the house of God, we are prais - ing in the house of God.
 We are danc - ing in the joy of God, we are danc - ing in the joy of God.
 We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

the light of God.
the house of God.
the joy of God.
the light of God

We are
We are
We are
We are

march-ing
prais-ing
danc-ing
march-ing

march-ing, we are
prais-ing, we are
danc-ing, we are
march-ing, we are

Oo, we are
Oo, we are
Oo, we are
Oo, we are

march-ing march-ing,
prais-ing, prais-ing
danc-ing, danc-ing
march-ing march-ing

12

march-ing in the light of God.
prais-ing in the house of God.
danc-ing in the joy of God.
march-ing in the light of God.

We are
We are
We are
We are

march-ing
prais-ing
danc-ing
march-ing

the light of God
the house of God
the joy of God
the light of God

march-ing we are
prais-ing we are
danc-ing we are
march-ing we are

15

Oo, we are
Oo, we are
Oo, we are
Oo, we are

march-ing in the light of God.
prais-ing in the house of God.
danc-ing in the joy of God.
march-ing in the light of God.

march-ing march-ing
prais-ing prais-ing
danc-ing danc-ing
march-ing march-ing

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Amy: May the God who welcomes you home surround you with grace.

Pastor Jim: May Christ meet you on every road you travel.

Pastor Dani: And may the Holy Spirit remind you, wherever the journey leads, that God has been with you all along and God is with you still.

C: Amen

***SENDING** (see next page)

Go Now in Peace

by Price/Besig

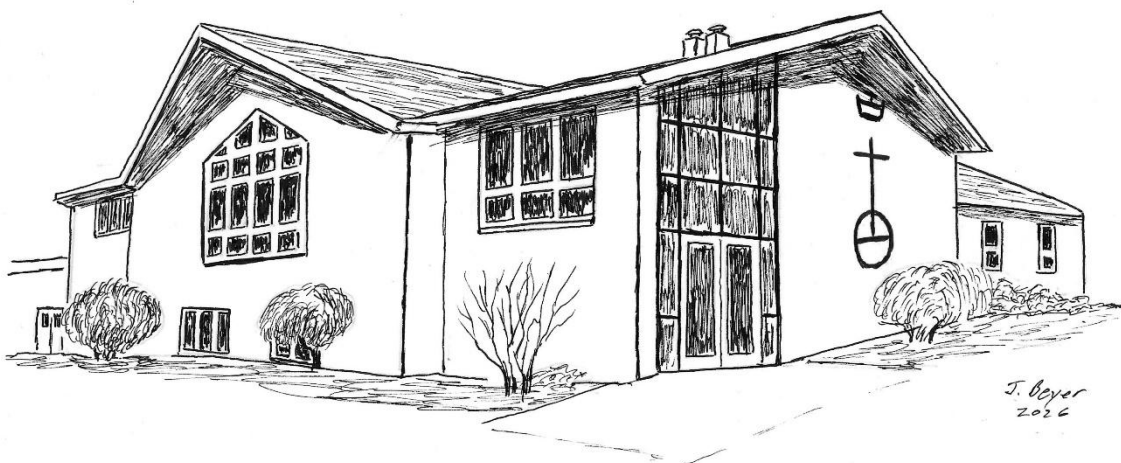
POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

by Handel

References

¹A poem written for Mt. Zion United Church's 175th anniversary, by Pastor Amy, using excerpts from Psalm 90 in *The Message Translation*.



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Go Now in Peace

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Don Besig

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Piano

$\text{♩} = 80$

mf Go now in peace. Never be a-fraid. God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day. *mf* Go now in

10 faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you be-

20 -lieve. Reach out to others so all the world can see. *rall. a tempo* God will be there watching from above. Go now in

30 peace, in faith, and in love. *dim.*

dim.

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 1-8) begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 80. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and mezzo-piano (mp). The second system (measures 9-16) continues the melody and bass line. The third system (measures 17-24) includes a 'rall.' (ritardando) and 'a tempo' marking. The fourth system (measures 25-30) ends with a 'dim.' (diminuendo) marking. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Thank you to all who participated in making our 175th Anniversary special! It is a joy to celebrate 175 of years of God's faithfulness with you! A special thank-you to our 175th Anniversary celebration team for their planning and dedication. The team members are Pastor Amy, Brenda Beyer, Vanessa Bicher, Wendy Kindig, & Sarah Shaffer.

Worship Choir

Soprano

Vanessa Bicher
Debbie Butcher
Lana Fritz
Carol Hartman
Norma Hull
Barb Neff

Alto

Brenda Beyer
Melody Stine

Tenor

Mike Gibbs
Michael Maletz

Bass

Braden Bicher

Choir Director

Cody Messersmith

Accompanist

Travis Pinci

Instrumentalists

Braden Bicher
George DeMers
Scott McCracken
Sean McCracken

Children's Choir

Jack Bicher	Nova Ramsey
Freddie Northridge	Tobias Rhinehart
Cannan Ramsey	Elliot Stine



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Historic Mt. Zion Pastors

Rev. Danielle Neff

Rev. Jim Walters

Guest Preacher

Rev. Kevin McLemore

Poem Reader

Deb Herlocker

A Celebration of History

Brenda Beyer

Lectors

Jackson Markel

Freddie Northridge

Bulletin Cover/Art of Current Church Building

Jim Beyer

Fingerprints on bulletin cover by the members of Mt. Zion UCC

Welcome Team Members

Deb Barnes

Terry Barnes

Cindy Hogentogler

Rick Hogentogler

Doris Loucks

Acolyte

Jack Bicher

Tech Team

Deb Herlocker

Jack Herlocker

John Kollasch



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Ministers Who Served Mt. Zion

Rev. F. W. Vandersloot	.....	1851-1860
Rev. David Bossler	.....	1860
Rev. R Smith	.....	1867
Rev. Dr. Aaron Wanner	.....	1870-1894
Rev. Gideon P Fisher	.....	1895-1901
Rev. Dr. William A Korn	.....	1901-1907
Rev. Edwin M Sando	.....	1907-1915
Rev. John J. Stauffer	.....	1915-1920
Rev. Clark W Heller	.....	1921-1929
Rev. Paul I Kuntz	.....	1929-1939
Rev. Arthur L Grove	.....	1939-1942
Rev. Robert Olewiler	.....	1942-1945
Rev. Marlin T Schaeffer	.....	1945-1947
Rev. C. L. Osenbach	.....	1947-1952
Rev. Jack F Busler	.....	1952-1953
Rev. Daniel T Saylor	Interim.....	1953-1956
Rev. Gerald F Kummer	.....	1956-1959
Rev J William Anderson	.....	1960-1974
Rev. Clair Rhodes	Interim.....	1974-1975
Rev. James Keogh	.....	1975-1976
Rev. Robert Achermann	Interim.....	1976
Rev. James M Walters	.....	1976-2007
Rev. Elden E. Ehrhart	Interim.....	1987
Rev. Cathy H Sherry	Associate Pastor.....	1994-2006
	Senior Pastor.....	2006-2015
Rev. Brad Rentzel	Interim.....	2007-2009
Rev. Danielle Neff	Associate Pastor.....	2009-2017
	Senior Pastor.....	2017-2023
Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco	Associate Pastor.....	2016-2020
Rev. Amy Northridge	Interim.....	2021-2024
	Senior Pastor.....	2024-Present



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Significant Dates in the Life of Mt. Zion

1851	Mt. Zion Reformed Charge Organized
1852	First Frame Union Church Built
1890	Brick Union Church Built
October 6, 1946	95th Anniversary Celebrated
October 7-28, 1951	100th Anniversary Celebrated
1951-1952	Addition Built onto Brick Church
June 1-5, 1952	Dedication for new Addition
January 17, 1955	Union Church Dissolved
February 1, 1956	Rev. Gerald Kummer, First Full-time Pastor of Mt. Zion Church
March 31, 1956	Purchase of Land on Ridgewood Road
December 30, 1956	Groundbreaking
March 1957	Construction Began
May 19, 1957	Cornerstone Laying
December 24, 1957	First Service in New Building
January 5-12, 1958	Week-long Services of Dedication for New Building
June 7, 1964	Mortgage Burned
December 8, 1974	Stained Glass Windows Dedication
October 16-17, 1976	125th Anniversary Celebration
May 20, 1979	Organ Rededication
May 6, 1982	25th Anniversary Celebration of the Building of the Church
March 30, 1986	Groundbreaking for Addition
February 15, 1987	Dedication for New Addition
October 19, 1997	40th Anniversary Celebration of the Building of the Church
September 1999	Mortgage Burned for the New Addition
September 30, 2001	150th Anniversary Celebration
April 26, 2015	Audio/Visual Equipment Dedication
March, 2025	Parlor Renovation Completed

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.