



LENT

Mid-week Lenten Service

7 PM

March 13, 2019

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeff Kardisco, Associate Pastor

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Secretary

First Week of Lent: Mid-week Service

7:00 PM

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## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

L: We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,

**P: and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.**

L: We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,

**P: we gather as people who have been called to see the world from a different viewpoint.**

L: God has called us together, God has called us to be part of a community.

**P: God challenges us to consider questions of priority as we engage with the world.**

L: In this time together,

**P: may God open our hearts, minds and eyes,**

L: allowing us to see deeper, helping us to live in the world while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.

**P: We worship together in Jesus' name.**

**OPENING HYMN NO. 202** (black hymnal)

*O God, How We Have Wandered<sup>2</sup>*

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

-1-

**TIME OF CONFESSION**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

**ALL:** Loving God, we think we know your Son well. We know his stories and his sayings. We are quick to claim what we know, and slow to acknowledge what we don't. We are slow to acknowledge that we have much to learn about Jesus and who he was. We are quick to conform Jesus to who we want him to be, instead of us conforming to who He wants us to be. Forgive our arrogance. Open our hearts and our minds to receive not just the Jesus we are comfortable with, but the full picture of him and all he calls us to be. Amen.

### TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 2030 (FWS, see p. 4)

*The First Song of Isaiah<sup>3</sup>*

**ALL SING:** Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and He will be my Savior.

## SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 13:10, 13-17** ~ Jesus' disciples came and said to him, "Why do you use parables when you speak to the crowds?" This is why I speak to the crowds in parables: although they see, they don't really see; and although they hear, they don't really hear or understand. What Isaiah prophesied has become completely true for them:

*You will hear, to be sure, but never understand;  
and you will certainly see but never recognize what you are seeing.  
For this people's senses have become calloused,  
and they've become hard of hearing,  
and they've shut their eyes  
so that they won't see with their eyes  
or hear with their ears  
or understand with their minds,  
and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them.*

"Happy are your eyes because they see. Happy are your ears because they hear. I assure you that many prophets and righteous people wanted to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they didn't."

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

**HYMN NO. 197** (black hymnal)

*Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*<sup>3</sup>

**TIME OF PRAYER AND 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.

**CLOSING HYMN NO. 503** (black hymnal)

*O Savior, Let Me Walk With You*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

<sup>1</sup>posted by Rev Gord on his blog, **Worship Offerings**.  
<http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

<sup>2</sup>The prayer of confession was written by Rev. Danielle Neff

<sup>3</sup>Music reproduced with permission under CCLI #3220582; Streaming License #CSPL062300. Score of *The First Song of Isaiah* created with the free version of Flat—  
<https://flat.io>.

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# The First Song of Isaiah

♩ = 80



Sure-ly it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a -

4



- fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de \_ fense and he wi-ll be my \_

8



Sav - ior.

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