

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Pastor Jeff Kardisco, Designated Pastor

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

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

Fifth Week of Lent: Mid-week Service

7:00 PM

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are called to turn the other cheek,

P: so we will seek to be vulnerable in our lives of faith and service.

L: We are called to go the extra mile,

P: so we will walk with those around us in the journeys of hope as well as fear.

L: We are called to love those who make that so hard,

P: so we will rely on the One who loves us to fill us with that special grace.

HYMN NO. 563 (black hymnal)

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others. We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times are just impossible. We know that nothing is impossible in You. We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness. Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness. For Your Son came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied, abused and put to death. He rose again, and came with the message of peace to those who had denied him and abandoned him. May we walk in his ways. Amen.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 198(black hymnal, refrain, vs 3, refrain) *Lift High the Cross*

ALL SING: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim; Let all adore and praise that sacred name. O Christ, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally. Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim; Let all adore and praise that sacred name.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:43-48~ “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best– the sun to warm and the rain to nourish– to everyone, regardless: the good and the bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that...In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

Romans 5:6-8~ While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. It isn’t often that someone will die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good person. But God shows his love for us, because while we were yet still sinners Christ died for us.

TOGETHER WE LEARN AND DISCERN

TRANSITIONAL MUSIC

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.

HYMN NO. 531 (black hymnal)

God Speak to Me, That I May Speak

BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
 all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
 all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

Ruth Duck wrote this text while she was serving as a corporate member of the United Church Board for World Ministries. In it, she wanted to "emphasize humanity's shared partnership with God in caring for one another and the whole creation."

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
 Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels
 for the Sunday School, New York, 1869

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872