

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

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Be the Church: Forgive Often

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. 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! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back of the sanctuary where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

We pray God's blessing upon you. For today's service, we will be using the black hymnal.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Lord's Prayer

by Lawton

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: "Truly I tell you," says Jesus, "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

People: May we be bound with love.

Leader: To bind, to be bound, to be bound with so many competing demands and expectations – aging partners and parents, unplanned expenses, demands at work and home and school and church.

People: May we be bound with love.

Leader: Bound now, bound forever, bound with whom and for what?

People: May we be bound with love.

Leader: What shall we carry with us into eternity? Our gold? Our politics? Our relationships? Which? For this choice we will be bound in heaven.

People: May we be bound with love.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Leader: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived up to the example set by Your Son, Jesus Christ. In your mercy, hear our prayer of confession. We confess how difficult it is to truly love the people around us; to care as deeply for their well-being as for our own, to delight in their good fortune without feeling envious.

People: Forgive us. Teach us to whole-heartedly love one another.

Leader: We confess how often we act out of our own self-interest; putting our needs and desires ahead of the needs of others, hoarding our resources rather than sharing them freely.

People: Forgive us. Teach us to live with generosity and compassion.

Leader: We confess how easy it is to do what we know is wrong; to rationalize our bad decisions and behaviors, to make excuses for our hurtful words and actions.

People: Forgive us. Teach us to turn away from what is wrong and pursue what is right.

Leader: We confess that we find it very difficult to love our enemies; to pray for their well-being, to act in their best interests, to leave thoughts of vengeance behind.

People: Forgive us. Teach us to love even those who hurt or offend us.

O God, you call us to turn away from the behaviors and attitudes of the world around us; and to be renewed and transformed by Your grace at work in our lives. Through Your Holy Spirit, continue the work that You have begun in us, so that our words and deeds may bring honor and glory to You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 581 (black hymnal, refrain & verse 3)

Lead Us From Death to Life

ALL SING: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe. Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth, let us begin to grow into your people. We can be love, we can bring peace, we can still be your way of compassion. Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE
MESSAGE**

Matthew 5:38-48

Be the Church: Forgive Often

HYMN NO. 2171 (FWS, see p. 4)

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(8 AM) *Mike Garcia*

(10:30 AM) *Jacqueline & Todd Kubala*

JOYS & CONCERNS

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.

(8:00 AM) **JUBILATION ANTHEM**

Love One Another

by Schram

TIME OF OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Depths of Mercy

arr. Berry

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 422 (black hymnal, v. 3)

Come, O Thankful People, Come

ALL SING: These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow; and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise. Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 2169 (FWS, see p. 5)

God, How Can We Forgive!

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee

by Wariner

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Verses 1, 2, 4



1. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. Where
2. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. Where
4. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. It



there is ha - tred, let me bring your love. Where
there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, in



there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, And
there is dark - ness, on - ly light, And
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Verse 3



3. Oh, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek So much to be con -



soled as to con - sole. To be un - der - stood as to un - der -



stand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

*Those for whom it is comfortable; please rise.

God, How Can We Forgive

1. God, how can we for-give when bonds of love are torn?
 2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of an-guish flow,
 3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn an-oth-er's sin,

How can we rise and start a-new, our trust re-born?
 how can you still re-lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know-ing all our past, for-give a-gain?

When hu-man lov-ing fails and ev-ery hope is gone,
 The o-cean depth of grace sur-pass-es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

your love gives strength be-yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu-man pain, Christ in-ter-cedes.
 As you, O God, for-give our sin, may we for-give.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Justin Neal's birthday by Nanny & Pappy Kinard.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in memory of our parents, Gordon Snyder Sr. & Roberta Snyder by Lana Fritz & Barb Stebbins.

Thank you to the Jubilation for participating in the 8:00 AM service today.

Thank you to Teresa Deckard for accompanying Jubilation on flute at the 8 AM service today.

We offer a hearing assistance system called *Listen Technologies*. If you would like to use a receiver, please check with the volunteers at the sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary.

8 AM Worship Tech: Connie Wolfe

8 AM Welcome Team: Barry & Nancy Schwartz; Deb & Terry Barnes

8 AM Sound Tech: John Kollasch

8 AM Video Tech: George DeMers

8 AM Hall Monitor: Pam Minnich

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Lana Fritz

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by Jason Shiffer

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Ryan Neal

10:30 AM Video Tech: Hunter King

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Jim Firestone

10:30 AM Hall Monitor: Jim Shiffer

10:30 AM WOW Kids: Kathy Sweeney

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Pastor Jeff

¹The call to worship was written by Katherine Hawker and originally posted on the *Outside the Box* website. It was accessed online at the *Re:Worship* website on 2/19/2019. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/call-to-worship-matthew-18-15-20.html>

²The prayer of confession was posted for sharing on the *Re:Worship* website at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/prayer-of-confession-proper-17a.html>. It was accessed on 2/19/2019.

³*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*. By Sebastian Temple. © 1967, OCP. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission under One License A-725030.

⁴*God How Can We Forgive*. 'Tune: Ruth Duck. © 1994, The Pilgrim Press. Reproduced with permission under One License A-725030.

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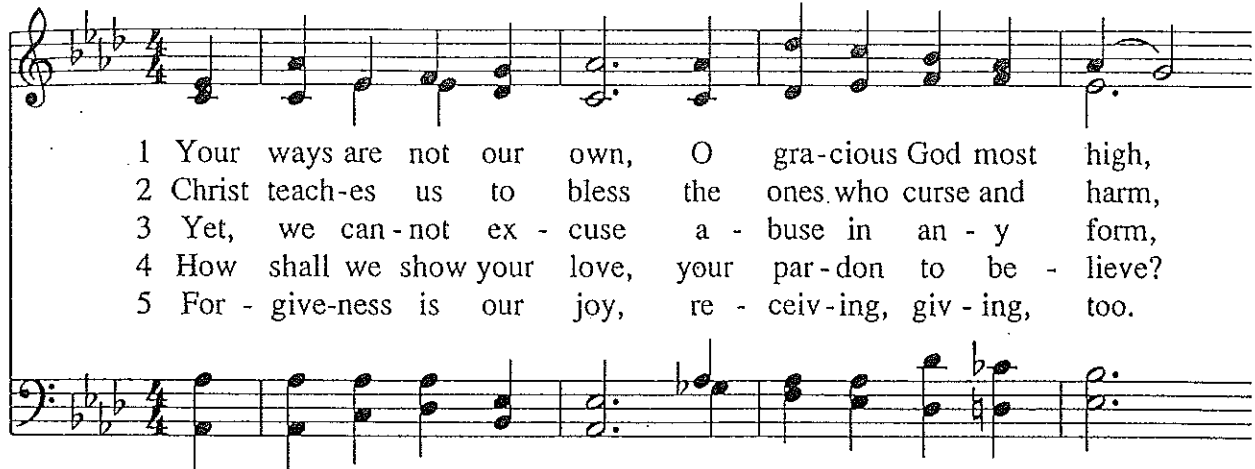
*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

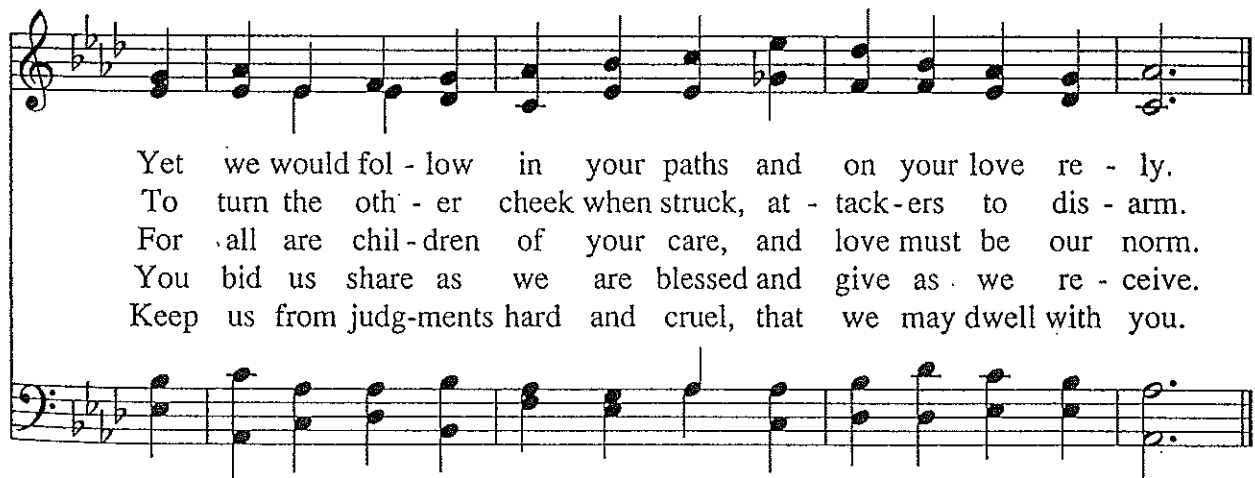
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Lavon Bayler, 1988, rev. 1993

Luke 6:17-38; Rom. 12:9-21



1 Your ways are not our own, O gra-cious God most high,
2 Christ teach-es us to bless the ones who curse and harm,
3 Yet, we can-not ex-cuse a-buse in an-y form,
4 How shall we show your love, your par-don to be-lieve?
5 For-give-ness is our joy, re-ceive-ing, giv-ing, too.



Yet we would fol-low in your paths and on your love re-ly.
To turn the oth-er cheek when struck, at-tack-ers to dis-arm.
For all are chil-dren of your care, and love must be our norm.
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we re-ceive.
Keep us from judg-ments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

Lavon Bayler has served on the Illinois Conference staff of the United Church of Christ beginning in 1979. She maintains a faithful practice of writing worship materials as part of her daily spiritual discipline and has published several books of resources.

Tune: SCHUMANN S.M.
Cantica Laudis,
Lowell Mason and G. J. Webb, 1850