

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 & 10:30 AM

The Lord's Prayer: How Can God Forgive Us?

"And forgive us our sins..."

If you are a guest, thank you for worshipping 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & OPENING PRAYER

Softly & Tenderly

by Thompson

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: From darkness and despair, from being lost and lonely, God calls us home.

P: Even though we have been selfish and let God down, we are still called beloved.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: Remember the eternal love of God which has been poured out for you.

P: Our hearts rejoice at the wondrous ways in which God loves and forgives us.

L: Remember that in all your ways you can trust in God's compassion.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 23** (black hymnal) *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: I have failed. I have gloated. I have hated. I have ignored. I have raged. I have hoarded. I have judged. I have turned away. I am sorry. I am exhausted. I am done. Fix me, heal me, break-and-remake-me, hold me, comfort me, nurture me, revive me, resuscitate me, bring me back from death. I give you the last word, O God. Will it be 'grace'? Will it be 'free'? Will it be 'love'?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 160 (black hymnal, v. 4) *Jesus the Light of the World*

ALL SING: Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus, the light of the world; Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world. We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7: 1-5
Matthew 18: 21-35

MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 553

There is a Balm in Gilead

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER³

ALL: O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, Yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every Vision, Power, and Song from gathering to gathering. Amen - May our future actions grow from here!

SPECIAL MUSIC (sung by Mike Gibbs) *Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior* by Crosby

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Lift My Soul to You

by True

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 181 (black hymnal, v. 2)

You Are Salt for the Earth O People

ALL SING: You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God! Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the City of God! Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace; bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 547 (black hymnal)

Amazing Grace

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Ever Faithful, Ever Near

by Ritter

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Katelyn Elizabeth Shiffer's 10th birthday from Nanna & Pop-Pop, Sue & Jim Shiffer.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Tillie Henry's birthday, with love, Anne Henry.

The bulletins are presented in honor of Tom Bair's birthday by his wife, Carol Bair.

Thank you to Mike Gibbs for providing special music at both services 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: Jim Shiffer

8 AM Welcome Team: Deb & Terry Barnes; Brooke & Jackson Markel

8 AM Sound Tech: John Kollasch

8 AM Video Tech: Dave Beyer

8 AM Hall Monitor: Coordinated by Pam Minnich

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Alan Neff

10:30 AM Welcome Team: The Rhinehart family

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Ron Miles

10:30 AM Video Tech: Elaine Bevivino

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Hunter King

10:30 AM Hall Monitor: George DeMers

10:30 AM Nursery: Katelyn & Corey McCarthy

WOW Kids: Jackie Kubala & Dani Devine

¹<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3623/worship-connection-march-31-2019>

²The prayer of confession was found at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>, accessed on 1/21/2020.

³This alternate version of the Lord's Prayer was written by Mark Berry.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e - ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

Last time, end

there is a balm in Gil-e - ad, to heal the sin - sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

to Refrain

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
 African-American spiritual

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)

Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900