

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Northridge, Transitional Minister

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

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

Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Hold Fast: Prodigal Grace¹

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

POEM¹ (read by Elaine Bevivino)

What Doesn't Play by the Rules

*I come into the room calculating
what I've done,
as if hurt could be measured, as if there was a score system,
as if we could say what I owe in return.
I come into the room ready to apologize, ready to make amends,
ready to tell you all the things I'll do to make it better, but you put your arms around me.
Grace is the ocean that softens the edges.
Grace is rain in the desert—you're not sure whether to laugh, cry, or dance.
Grace is a miracle, all by itself.
In a scorekeeping world,
grace doesn't play by the rules.*

*I come into the room calculating what I've done. You say there's grace here. It feels like a miracle.
I don't know whether to laugh, cry, or dance.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God's reach is endless.

P: God's mercy is unstoppable.

L: God's grace is lavish.

P: God's love is constant.

L: God's wisdom is vast.

P: God's hope is stubborn.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: God's presence is here—

P: with us, among us, moving through us.

L: Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

P: We are in God's house.

L: Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 2172** (FWS, see p. 4)

We Are Called

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. It sounds like ours. And we know his story. It sounds like ours. For who among us hasn't burned a bridge? Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another? Who among us has not ached for home? The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. Forgive us God. We want to come home.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, "Prodigal Son." However, 'prodigal' can also be described as extravagant and excessive. Friends, we worship a prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace. For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open. The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

P: Thanks be to God, amen.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 780 (BH, see p. 5)

Doxology

ALL SING: Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: God of open doors,

We often long to come home to you, to love, and to ourselves,

but we aren't always sure how to get there...Find the parts of us that are lost.

With hope we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5: 19-22

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 547 (BH, see p. 5)

Amazing Grace

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Together let us join in the Affirmation of Faith.

P: We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us. We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found. We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost. We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace. In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other. We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone; so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace. We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

SPECIAL OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS & CONCERNS

HYMN NO. 2215 (FWS, see p. 6)

Cares Chorus

ALL SING: I cast all my cares upon you, I lay all of my burdens down at your feet, and anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you.

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.

HYMN NO. 2215 (FWS, see p. 6)

Cares Chorus

ALL SING: I cast all my cares upon you, I lay all of my burdens down at your feet, and anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you.

REFLECTIVE MOMENT

OFFERING OF COINS

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 23 (BH, see p. 6)**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thank you to the worship team for planning the Lent services and decorating the sanctuary. The Lent team members are Lana Fritz, Cindy Hogentogler, Vanessa Bicher, Elaine Bevivino, Jim Shiffer, Deb Herlocker, Pastor Amy, Travis Pinci, & Denny Daugherty. Thank you to John Kollasch, Elaine Bevivino, Jim Firestone, & John Schriver for serving on the tech teams. Thank you to Tom Bair for serving on the praise team and for reading Scripture. Thank you to Denny Daugherty for serving as guest accompanist. Thank you to David Strine, Cindy & Rick Hogentogler, Lana Fritz, and Les & Doris Loucks for serving on the welcome teams.

We Are Called

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David Haas

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the
 2. Come! O-pen your heart! Show your mer-cy to
 3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when

7
 love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the king-dom, to
 all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hope-less so all
 all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth-er as

13
 live in the free-dom of the cit-y of God! We are called
 hat-red and blin-ness will be no more!
 sis-ters and broth-ers u-nit-ed in love!

19
 to act with jus-tice, we are called to love ten-der-ly,

25
 we are called to serve one an-oth-er, to walk

31
 hum-bly with God!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Doxology

Thomas Ken, 1674

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♩ = 80

Piano

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures
 here be - low; Praise God a - bove, you heaven - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
 Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

John Newton, 1725-1807

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♩ = 80

Piano

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

wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am
 fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that grace ap -
 read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus
 hope se - cures; God will my shield and por - tion
 as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's

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

Cares Chorus

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

I cast all my cares up-on you, I lay all of my
 7 bur-dens down at your feet, and an-y-time that I don't know what to
 13 do, I will cast all my cares up-on you.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-186

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Piano $\text{♩} = 120$

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;
 5 there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty. There's no place where
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were
 10 earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's hea-ven; there's no place where
 but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word; and our lives would
 14 earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.