

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times where all who are able may stand.
Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "A Patriotic Quotation" Hughes

Call to Worship *(Inspired by Psalm 48)*

Here in the house of God,

The Lord is great and so worthy of praise!

We dwell in Your faithful love O God.

Let the world rejoice because of your acts of justice!

May God examine our lives, and fill them with righteousness.

God will be with us, guiding us, even to the very end.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

Holy and gracious God, we gather before you, as your humble and grateful servants. Help us become all that you require. Where there is doubt, grant us faith. Where there is transgression, grant us justice. Where there is hate, grant us love. Encourage us with gifts of ministry. Focus our hearts to know Your grace. And lead us in the way everlasting this day and always. In your great name, we pray, Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Psalm 48 (Common English Bible)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Peace-loving God, Your world is hurting. Your people falter. We gather in need of Your mercy, grace, and guidance. Forgive us when our hearts harden. Forgive us for looking the other way and ignoring the pain of Your creation. Shake us from complacency and encourage us to action, so Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

God does not seek punishment for a lack of faithfulness. God seeks to guide us out of our sin precisely because God has so much faith in us. God believes in us and has entrusted Christ's church to continue his ministry in the world. Through God's good grace, I say to you in the name of Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are invited into greater faithfulness.

Praise, be, to God! Amen.

Announcements

Giving from Our Hearts

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, bless the gifts we have gathered in Your holy name. Multiply them for the benefit of Your grace and mercy. May You guide us to use them for your will; not only here in this place, but in all the places where our church has been blessed to be a blessing in the world. With humble hearts, we give you thanks, Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture 1 Samuel 31:1-7, 2 Samuel 1:1, 11-12, & 17-2:7

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“This Is My Song”

Kirk Hancox, soloist

words by Stone

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

An Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed- United Church of Canada (1980)

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION*

(The prepackaged communion cups are filled with grape juice and a wafer.
Gluten free wafers are packaged separately.)

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, who you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere...

Holy, holy, holy God of Love and justice, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the Highest. Amen.

Remembrance

Invocation

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world. Come, Holy Spirit, Amen.

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ’s presence and for the spiritual food of Christ’s body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

Closing Music *“Battle Hymn of the Republic”* arr. Althouse

Benediction

Postlude *“Fanfare on ‘National Hymn’”* Saxton

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Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849
Home Page address is: www.zionunion.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday–8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)
Church Office: (636/583-2814) fax (636/583-7949)

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch

Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry

Organist: Brenda Herring

Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

Administrative Assistant: Connie Thompson

Coordinator of Elementary Youth: Mandy Frick

Council President: Jane Wilson

Church Custodian: Sarah Buscher

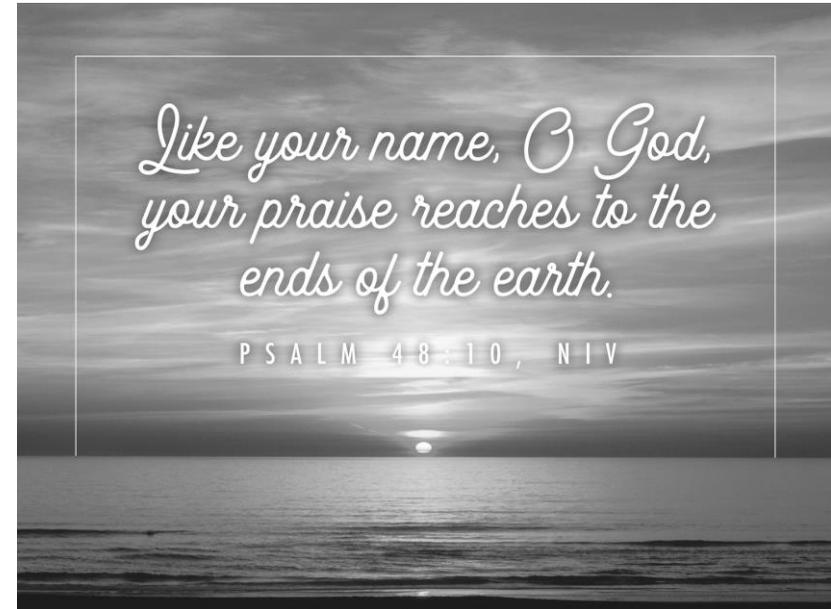
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



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**Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri**