

The Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 19, 2022

9:00 a.m.

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

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" Carter

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 42)

As a deer longs for flowing streams of water, our souls reach out to seek our God.

Where is our God? In the cleansing of the rain, in the refreshing of a pool, in the predictability of a faucet.

With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, our voices lift toward our God.

Where is our God? In the melody of voices raised in concert, in the stillness of silence, in the cacophony of spontaneous praise.

As deep calls to deep, we come to worship the Living God.

Where is our God? In the echoes of our prayers, in the reverence of bowed heads, in the hope of raised faces. The Holy One is with us.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy Wisdom, we hear you calling us to gather and to hope in your name. Ignite sacred courage in us to proclaim the good news of justice from the comfort of the sanctuary to the public witness of the city gates. Inspire a compelling vision of a gracious, beloved, and empowered community that propels us to confront inequities, challenge privilege, and participate in your creative work in our time. Renew our hope for humanity so that we might rejoice in this inhabited world and delight in our siblings. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Galatians 3:23-29 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 358

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy and Gracious God, fear seeks to be our constant companion. It stifles us with its overwhelming presence and prolific imagination. Fear surrounds us and blocks our vision and your path. Fear keeps us from picking up our cross as much as it suppresses our joy in you. Fear invites us to believe the easy lie rather than confronting the hard truths necessary for your kingdom to come. Too often, we cast off your perfect love in favor of insidious fear.

Forgive us for choosing fear when we could have you, your presence, and your way as our companion on our journey. Empower us to reject fear and all that fall complicit in dampening your truth.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

Romans 5:1b-2a reminds us that "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand." That grace promises the glory of transformation through the acknowledgement of need for it. Receive grace, embrace transformation, and enter the newness of life in which Christ fashions our struggles into character and hope.

We are forgiven, praise be to God! Amen!

Announcements

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. Over 95% of our budget is directly supported through our offering.

While the ministry at Zion is sustained by more than dollars and cents, the monetary giving is vital to the work we do. We give thanks for all who have supported Zion over the years. For those contributing financially: There is an offering plate just outside the sanctuary or you can donate online through the online giving button at zionunion.org.

+ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+ Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks, God Our Help, for the abundance of the gifts you have planted in us as seeds that we may share in bloom. May these offerings be received and magnified for your glory. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 8:26-39 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“How Firm A Foundation”

arr. Ortega

Kirk Hancox, soloist

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.

+ Closing Hymn No. 61

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

+ Benediction

Postlude

“Promised Land”

Carter

Today’s liturgy was written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, and is used with permission by Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)

Church Office: (636/583-2814) fax (636/583-7949)

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



“Return
to your **home,**
and **declare** how
much **God** has
done **for you.”**

Luke 8:39

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Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri