

Totenfest Sunday

November 20, 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 *"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"* arr. Chesterton

Call to Worship

Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.

May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

In remembering them, may we find ourselves remembered.

May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Hebrews 11:1-12 NRSV

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

Thanks be to God!

A Litany and Prayers of Remembrance

Blessed are the dead who from now on die in Christ.

They will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.

We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died,

So that you may not grieve as others who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

Even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

But someone will ask "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

When you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed.

But God gives a body as God has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Jesus said "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. I go to prepare a place for you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I said to you."

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

For God created us for incorruption and made us in the image of God's own eternity.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God and no torment will ever touch them.

Candle Lighting (*After each name is read...*)

May God bless them,

And welcome them into the saints in light.

Betty A. Lueker

born: August 5, 1940
died: November 25, 2021

Ralph Oltmann

born: December 31, 1925
died: December 5, 2021

Henrietta Schuenemeyer

born: January 13, 1927
died: February 10, 2022

Larry D. Fritsch

born: May 3, 1940
died: February 13, 2022

Margaret Kroeter

born: March 30, 1924
died: March 16, 2022

June E. Helgenberg

born: June 6, 1931
died: March 20, 2022

Helen M. Williams

born: December 22, 1922
died: April 9, 2022

James M. Metcalf

born: August 28, 1938
died: July 16, 2022

Reid R. Cox

born: July 7, 1943
died: July 24, 2022

Mary L. Walker

born: June 14, 1935
died: July 21, 2022

Walter ‘Wally’ Helgenberg

born: May 24, 1931
died: August 13, 2022

Quentin E. Berghorn

born: December 12, 1944
died: August 27, 2022

Juanita M. Hulse

born: January 31, 1938
died: September 27, 2022

(Once all the names are read and candles are lit, we will finish the prayer)

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and burden that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. In the company of all the saints we pray...

May Christ, who makes saints of sinners, who has transformed those we remember today, raise and strengthen us, that we may transform the world. Amen.

+ Opening Hymn No. 529

“For All the Saints”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, grant me grace to release everything too much or too little into your transforming fire of refinement. Sear in me the strength of your saints – generous and gentle, focused and fierce – just enough to answer every devilish temptation distracting or denying Your Holy hope for my reformation. Yes, Love, form me anew from the inside out, centering others ahead of every selfishness that dares me to choose anything less than You. Release me from the burdens and brokenness of my own making, that I may be readied to meet You in every ordinary saint whose path crosses mine in the gift of this day. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

Hear the good news! Jesus tells us that the Holy One is a God of grand reversals. Weeping turns to rejoicing, hunger is answered with fullness, honesty of heart is answered with grace upon grace. Every energy that diminishes is interrupted with a newness of life made possible by the One who is always searching us out with forgiving love. In Jesus, God revealed that grace and forgiveness has already arrived, and it includes you and me. It is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. The saints knew it and now you do, too.

Thanks be to God! Amen and 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 Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+ Prayer of Dedication

O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living others may discover You. Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places. Thank you for calling us into a life such as this and bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture: Hebrews 11:13-12:1-2 NRSV
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...
Thanks be to God!

Anthem *“Within This House of Worship”* Larson
Chancel Choir

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer and 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. 84 *“Our God Our Help in Ages Past”*

Benediction

Postlude *“The Thankful Heart Rejoices”* Smith

Today’s Liturgy was written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins and used with permission by Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

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 **Administrative Assistant:** Connie Thompson
Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry **Coordinator of Elementary Youth:** Mandy Frick
Organist: Brenda Herring **Council President:** Jane Wilson
Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford **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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November 20, 2022 9:00 a.m.
Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri