

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

9:00 a.m.

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

Ringling of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "The Courts of Praise" Logan

Call to Worship *(Inspired by Psalm 27:1, 4-9)*

Our ever-present God dwells in the sanctuary and in homes, in public spaces and our interior lives.

Behold the greatness of the Holy One in the expansiveness of these sacred spaces.

We seek God's face on Sunday mornings and evenings...and throughout the week.

Live in the presence of the Holy One all the days of our lives.

We call out for God's grace, strength, and guidance.

Seek the face of the Holy One. Recognize God's greatness.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

Great God, we acknowledge your presence among us and the ways you connect us as a community. Make us receptive to your voice and instruments of your love in the world. Thrill us with your majesty and inspire us with your humility. We rejoice in this gathering as we bless your Holy Name in the assembly, gathered across time and space as your people. We seek you. We're grateful to find you. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 27 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 96 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, how often do we turn toward ourselves or others for validation, salvation, and deliverance rather than seek your wisdom, will, and way? How often have we sought our own measure of greatness apart from the realm of your kin-dom? How long have you waited for us to seek you? Forgive us, O God, and call us back to your presence, plan, and purpose. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

The One who creates us in the divine image knows how tempted we may be to consider ourselves more highly than we ought or more lowly than we should. The One who knows us continually reaches toward us with the promise of grace and the hope of mercy, faithfulness, and love. Receive God's forgiveness and restorative embrace.

Thanks 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 Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+ Prayer of Dedication

Great God, receive our gifts of ourselves and our resources for the benefit and building of the kin-dom. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“Be Not Afraid”

Wagner

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. 581 *“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”*

The closing hymn is sung in loving memory of **Donna M. Staten.**

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“A Light on Our Way”

Broughton

Today’s Liturgy was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

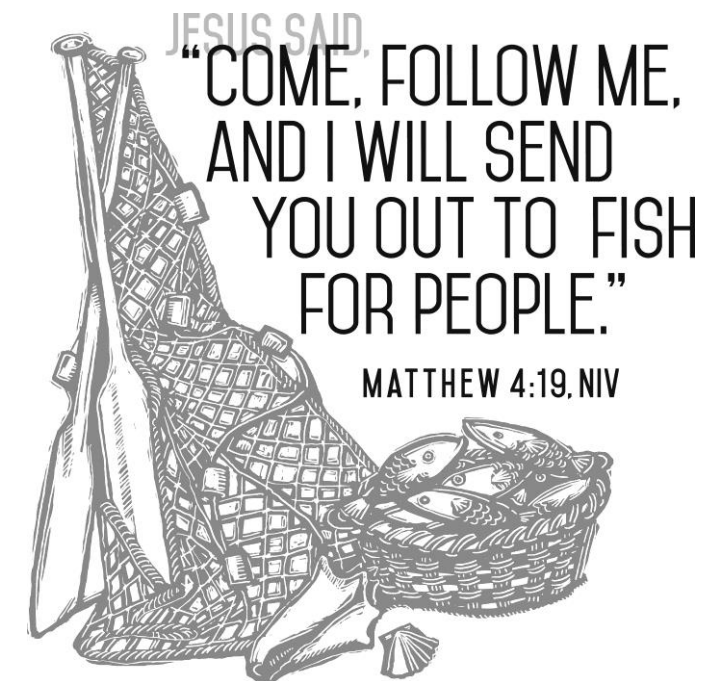
We commit ourselves...

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