

# The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

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 "Sortie on 'Hursley'" Smith

Call to Worship (Based on Ps 68, The Inclusive Bible translation)

We shout for joy to God who rides upon the clouds!

**We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God, before whom the earth quakes, and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

God is Sovereign over the earth, Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans; God creates families for those who are alone.

**God leads captives to freedom and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

God goes forth before the people, marching through the wilderness of their lives, bringing forth restoration and justice.

**Sing praise to God, Rider of the ancient skies, who dwells in holiness.**

Proclaim the power of God!

**O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary! You give power and strength to your people.**

Let us worship God!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

**Jesus, we long to hear your prayer for us. We wait for the Spirit to guide us, to lead us, to remind us of your presence in the world. Sanctify us in the truth, dear Christ, that we may all be one, just as you and God and the Holy Spirit are one. May the love which you have loved one another dwell in us. Though we are tired, though we are worried, though the future remains a mystery, we are renewed by your love. By the power of resurrection transform our despair into hope, our fear into courage, and our apathy into love. In your holy and grace-filled name we pray, Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture

John 17:1-11 CEB

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

**Thanks be to God!**

+ Opening Hymn No. 319 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray...

**Blessed One, you created human beings for your glory and pleasure. Forgive us for being self-absorbed and choosing to live solely for ourselves. Forgive us for ignoring the prompting of your Spirit, your purpose for our lives, and for placing our will above yours. Grant us courage to share in Christ's sufferings, to be his witnesses, and to carry your loving compassion to a hurting world. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

As the Body of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses. Each of us has our own story of what Jesus' life means for us. Through our life-stories we can convey hope to the hopeless, joy to the downtrodden, and peace where there is turmoil. Therefore, let us "clothe ourselves in humility," sharing the Good News of Christ, that we "may all be one."

**In us God is well pleased, 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](http://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

Ever-present and loving God, your Word tells us to cast our cares on you because you care for us. In faith and trust we present these gifts, and ourselves, to you. Bless and multiply them to meet the needs, both hidden and apparent, of your beloved ones. Inspire each of us to live as Christ's witnesses, today and ever more. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Acts 1:1-14 CEB

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

*"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

Sung in honor of the 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Armin Klemme by his family.

Please join the family on the last verse of the Hymn which is on page 59.

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. 24

*"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

*"Chorus of Praise"*

Johnston

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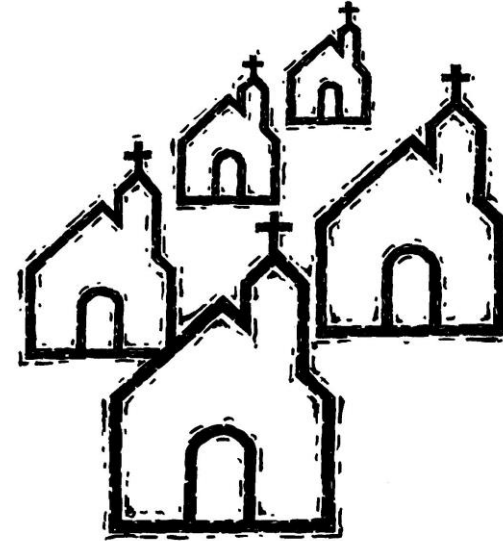
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

*We care as Christ cares.*



**"...so that  
they may be  
one..."**

**John 17:11**

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May 21, 2023 9:00 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ  
Union, Missouri