

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

9:00 a.m.

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

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Prelude on 'Morning Song'" Paxton

Call to Worship *(Based upon Psalm 92:1-4)*

Come and give thanks to our God.

Sing praises to the holy name.

With the melody of the lute and the harp and the song in our hearts...

We declare God's steadfast love in the morning...

And faithfulness at night.

God's works make us glad.

Your works are great, O God.

We sing our praises of joy to you.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

O God, maker of all that is beautiful, you gave us the seeds of your justice and peace. In this time together, touch us, teach us, and inspire us to sow those seeds through our ministries so that all may share in Creation's abundance to make true the promise that no one will know scarcity and no one will suffer deprivation in this community and beyond. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 138 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 81 "We Gather Together"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you are indeed generous. You give us the gifts of the spirit which enable us to have so much. We forget, however, that we have been recipients of other people's generosity. Believing that what we have is ours, we forget that all we have is yours. Forgive us. Help us to remember that being made in your image, we should be as generous as you. Amen.

Words of Grace

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit and a contrite heart. By God's steadfast love for us, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

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

You have been exceedingly generous to us, O God. We return a portion of what we have to you in grateful thanksgiving. Bless our offerings that they will nurture the seeds of hope and healing in this community and beyond. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Mark 4:1-36 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“In the Garden”

Chancel Choir

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.

Hymn of Preparation No. 697

“Eat This Bread”

Holy Communion

Invitation

Mark, in his Gospel, wrote that Jesus said “the wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them.” He blessed and broke the loaves, and fed the thousands. Believing that Jesus is with us, we come to his abundant feast, to meet the Risen Christ who promises to meet us here.

God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to God.

Let us praise God together.

Let us give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, Eternal God. We thank you for calling forth the creation, forming us in your image and calling us to be a blessing. We remember that God fed the people with manna in the wilderness, and Joseph and his brothers reconciled with a feast. Blessed are you and blessed is Jesus, the incarnation of your love. We remember that he preached your mercy, raised the dying, restored the ill to lives of wholeness and service. On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he fed the hungry crowds; and in an upper room, he gave us this meal as the sign of his abiding presence. In company with saints and sinners in every time and beyond time, we praise you with joy.

Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the Highest!

Remembrance

Invocation

Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal. Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that we may share this abundant feast in the presence of Jesus. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

+ Sharing of the Elements

The Lord’s Table is open to all. Today, we will come forward, through the center aisle, where Rev Nicholas will place a piece of gluten free bread in your hand. Communion stewards next to the pastor will be holding trays containing both white grape juice, and red wine. You may return to your seat by the side aisle. Additionally, communion stewards will make their way through the sanctuary offering communion for those unable to come forward.

Prayer of Thanksgiving following Communion

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready not to be served but to serve, in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 350 *“The Summons”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *“A Song of Redemption”* Paxton

Today’s Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Prayer of Dedication were written by the Rev. Quentin Chin and used and adapted with permission from the Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ.

The Communion Liturgy was written by Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/a-prayer-for-holy-communion-based-on-the-gospel-of-mark/>

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: Fern Dewert

Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

Church Custodian: Joy Bradley

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



+ The Third Sunday in Lent +

March 3, 2024 9:00 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri

Please take the Sunday News home with you for information and happenings during the week at Zion Church.

SUNDAY NEWS

MARCH 3, 2024

Communion Sunday - We practice Open Communion here at Zion UCC. Jesus didn't turn anyone away; neither will we. Everyone is invited to come and share in the receiving of the bread and the cup.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Karen Tucker

Ushers: Donna Bocklage, John Crane Greeter: Sandy Bailey

Communion Stewards: Skip & Pat Buehrle, Carl & Jane Ridder

Sound System Tech: Jason Dewert Video Tech: Dan Mossoney

(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

Usher Dismissal - An usher will dismiss you by row at the conclusion of the service. They will begin at the front.

Coffee/Fellowship Hour will be in the lower commons each Sunday following the worship service.

Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds - Help build our Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds by bringing in items for the Little Free Pantry and the Union Food Pantry. Donations of canned goods/non-perishable items and toiletry items will be collected until March 24th.

Lenten Offering - This year's Lenten Offering will be shared with Your Other Mother Pregnancy and Positive Parenting Center in Union. This non-profit organization promotes positive parenting, building stronger families and bringing healthy accountability into unhealthy situations. Lenten offering envelopes are located by the offering plate for your donations.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - During March, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering which helps when disasters strike globally. OGHS provides immediate relief when needed during disasters. Offering envelopes are in the March newsletter and are also available by the offering plate.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

David Pehle	Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho
Frank Fazzari	Charlotte Ellison	Sondra Jackson	Fletcher Simons
Kevin Vorderbruegge	Norma Kern	Carol Bean	Kim Yenzer
Keith Stahlman	Virginia Maune	Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)	
Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)		Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)	
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)		Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	
Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Mike Matthews (friend of Carolyn George)	
Linda Barnhart (sister of Fern Dewert)		David Borgmann (brother of Fern Dewert)	
Shirley Brand (friend of Gerry Hoelscher)		Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)	
Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)		S (Karen Stafford's CASA buddy)	
Myrt Dunigan		Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)	
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)		Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)	
Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Liz Klemme (daughter/sister of Armin, Norma & Phil Klemme)	
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)	
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)	
Wayne Herring (father of Matt Herring)		Beverly Elliott (mother of Mike Elliott)	
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)		Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)	
The Henle family (family of Susan Merlino)		Shirley Thompson (mother-in-law of Connie Thompson)	
Nick Cain (grandson of Verlyn Yarbrough)			

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNiell (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Ronald Dobsch (nephew of Charlotte Ellison)	Morgan Jones (friend of Connie Thompson & Amy Eads)
Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)	Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)
Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)	Trish Kennedy (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Allen Coffman (friend of David & Shawn Pehle)	Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)
Donna Eime (friend of Jim Doehring)	Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)	Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)
Leland Stahlman (brother of Keith Stahlman)	Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)
Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)	

Various Concerns:

Prayer for our country and those actively serving: Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Hunter Grafrath (currently deployed) (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)

Adult Education Opportunities

JOY Adult Class – The JOY Adult Class meets in the lower commons classroom following worship. All are invited.
This Morning - *The Discussion Class* meets in the conference room following the 9 a.m. worship service. All are welcome!

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

Wednesdays – The first two Wednesdays of each month all are invited to LOGOS where we will have an 'out of this world' experience! Join us from 5-7:30 p.m. for music, bible stories, games, crafts, & a family style meal. The meal is served at 6 p.m. with a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the Zion LOGOS meals.

Thurs., March 28 – Bring your children/grandchildren to the **Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt** on Thursday, March 28th following the Maundy Thursday Service. If you plan to attend please contact Alysha Petry at 636-583-2814 or apetry@zionunion.org. Bring your Easter baskets!

Camp Registration Is Open! – Summer camp registration is open for all Camp MoVal Camps. Zion members receive a 60% discount thanks to camp scholarships. Contact the church office for your discount gift certificate. Register for camp at the Ultracamp website. Click the REGISTER TODAY button at www.missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval to be directed to Ultracamp.

Children's Music Opportunity – Our children's music group 'Joyful Noise' for grades K-6 rehearses on the last two Wednesdays of the month beginning at 6 p.m.

Church Calendar – March 3, 2024 to March 10, 2024

Today -	The 3rd Sunday in Lent/Communion
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Fellowship Hour
Wed., March 6 -	10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study (chapel)
	12:00 noon Loops of Love
	5:00-7:30 p.m. LOGOS
	6:30 p.m. Zion Ringers (chapel)
	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
Thurs., March 7 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
	9:00 a.m. Help Thyself Committee (conference room)
	6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
	6:30 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (lower commons)
Fri., March 8 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., March 10 -	The 4th Sunday in Lent
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Fellowship Hour
	10:00 a.m. Usher 'Refresher' Training (sanctuary)
	10:00 a.m. Green Team (fellowship hall)

Next Sun., March 10 & Sun., March 17 - The Security Committee recently updated the Safety Policies at Zion Church and would like to review them with the ushers. Two dates have been set up for this brief overview. Please join us on *either* of the following dates: Sunday, March 10th or Sunday, March 17th. We will meet in the sanctuary following the morning worship service. Thank you for your time!

Cemetery Clean Up - Spring clean up at the Zion Cemetery will be from March 1st to March 31st. Please remove any items you may want to keep before these dates and they may be placed back after March 31st. Thank you!

Lenten Study - This year's Lenten Study is focusing on the Gospel of Mark. We are covering its origin, unique contributions to Christianity, literary style, and ways in which we modern readers can interpret this Gospel. The study continues every Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the chapel and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the lower commons. (3/6 & 3/7, 3/13 & 3/14, and 3/20 & 3/21).

Wednesdays – The first two Wednesdays of each month all are invited to LOGOS where we will have an 'out of this world' experience! Join us from 5-7:30 p.m. for music, bible stories, games, crafts, & a family style meal. The meal is served at 6 p.m. with a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the Zion LOGOS meals.

Handbell Ringers Needed – Zion Ringer's are needing handbell players to play along with Zion Ringers, Joyful Noise, and Chancel Choir for Easter. **NO MUSIC EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** Please contact Karen Stafford for more information.

Help Thyself - The Help Thyself committee is always the happiest when we see the prepared meals and desserts disappear from the freezer in the Lower Commons freezer. Please continue to Help Thyself and continue to enjoy the prepared meals from the Zion's participating great cooks. Thank you so much to those cooks. Any suggestions are always welcome - pass them on to any of the committee members. Kathy Young (314-580-3105), Carol Rohrbach (636-583-3659), Ann Hartley (636-346-5921), Dorothy Mitana (636-239-1296), Jane Ridder (314-520-7090), or Maxine Harrison (636-583-2159)

Little Food Pantry – Thank you for the great support in keeping the Little Food Pantry going! A list of the most needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the lower commons. Monetary donations can also be given – contact the church office.