

The 2nd Sunday of Easter Earth Day

April 27, 2025

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.

Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Meditation

Prelude “Christ Is the Way, the Truth, the Life” Kendall

Call to Worship *adapted from Psalm 65, NRSV*
Praise is due to you, O God in Zion. You are the hope of all the ends of the earth.

By your strength you established the mountains. You silence the roaring of the waves.

You alone can silence the tumult of the peoples. All the world stands in awe of your works.

You visit the earth and water it, enriching it. The river of God is full of clear water.

You provide the people with grain as you have prepared it. You water the furrows of grain with soft showers, blessing its growth.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, meadows are clothed with flocks. The valleys are filled with grain; they shout and sing together for joy.

+ Opening Hymn No. 40 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

The Baptism and New Member Reception of
Tabitha Grimm Nolting and Skyler Grimm Hardin

Welcome

Questions of the Candidates

Congregational Assent

1

Prayer of Baptism

Please join me in prayer. We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the Promised Land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary’s womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by the water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in those baptized this day that they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Baptism

Congregational Blessing

Welcome, Skyler! Welcome Tabitha! We rejoice in your baptism and promise to help you remember today. Faith can get hard and heavy, so we carry it together. We are strengthened by your presence. Thank God for you!

Questions About Participation

+ Welcome and Reception

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Prayer for the Baptized

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for these your children, Skyler and Tabitha, and for the grace

2

acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love. Give the newly baptized strength for life's journey and courage in times of suffering. The joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life. O God, we praise You for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together, may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Baptism Hymn No. 678

"In Water We Grow"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God our Creator, we confess that we have not lived in harmony with your creation. We have abused the power you have given us. In the name of convenience and progress, we have harmed the air, water, and land. We have endangered animals and ourselves. Forgive us, O God. We may not be able to undo the mistakes of the past, but we can learn again how to live as stewards of your creation. Guide us as we seek to change our destructive ways and attitudes. We pray in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

Words of Grace

Take heart! God empowers us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life. Forgiven and forgiving, we can live in peace and harmony with all creation.

Thanks be to God!

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. 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; Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+ Prayer of Dedication

O God, these gifts are not really ours to give. Whatever wealth or abundance we offer was nurtured by your good rain and warmed by your sun before it became the fruits of our labors. Bless these gifts to the healing of your creation and all its inhabitants. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Lessons and Hymns for Earth Day

First Reading of Scripture

Genesis 1:26-31 CEB

Meditation

"Earth Rise"

Amanda Gorman

Hymn

"Crashing Waters at Creation"

Tune: *"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"* (STUTTGART)

**Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.**

**Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage – channel to a life made new.**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.**

**Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.**

Second Reading of Scripture

Psalms 8 CEB

Meditation

"The Tonic of Wildness"

Henry David Thoreau

Hymn

"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"

Tune: *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* (ODE TO JOY)

**God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.**

**We, created in your image, would a true reflection be
of your justice, grace and mercy, and the truth that makes us free.**

**God, your will is still creating, calling us to life made new,
now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion, fashion us with loving care,
thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

Third Reading of Scripture

Job 12:7-10 NRSVUE

Meditation

“My First Summer in the Sierra”

John Muir

Hymn

“*This is My Father's World*”

**This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas – God's hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is our Father's world: O let us not forget
that though the wrong is great and strong, God is the ruler yet.
God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair –
all earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.**

Fourth Reading of Scripture

John 4:1-15 NRSVUE

Meditation

“The Edge of the Sea”

Rachel Carson

+ Hymn No. 48

“*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*”

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of our Savior (*responsively*)

Our Creator in heaven

You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans

Hallowed be your name

By the care we take of your creation

Your kingdom come

All that you see is good

Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Your will to till and care

Give us this day our daily bread

That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.

Forgive us our trespasses

Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations

As we forgive those who trespass against us

By reconciliation with justice and peace

Lead us not into temptation

The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

And deliver us from evil

The evil of destroying your gift of creation

For yours is the kingdom

Yours, Lord, not ours

The power and the glory

In the cross and resurrection

For ever and ever

You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 719

“*Go, My Children with My Blessing*”

+ Benediction (*responsively*)

Thank you, God, for water, soil, and air, large gifts supporting everything that lives. Forgive our spoiling and abuse of them.

Help us renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for minerals and ores, the basis of all building, wealth, and speed. Forgive our reckless plundering and waste.

Help us renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for priceless energy, stored in each atom, gathered from the sun. Forgive our greed and carelessness of power.

Help us renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for weaving nature's life into a seamless robe, a fragile whole. Forgive our haste that tampers unaware.

Help us renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for making planet earth a home for us and ages yet to come. Help us share, consider, save, and store.

Come and renew the face of the earth. Amen.

+ Postlude
Nordman

"Be Thou Exalted"

Opening Centering Meditation from *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human* by Cole Arthur Riley, (New York: Convergent, 2024)

The Lord's Prayer (An environmental responsive Lord's Prayer) from *Creation Care Prayers*, The Church of England Environmental Programme

"Thank You, God, for Water, Soil, and Air," by Brian Wren, © 1975, 1983 Hope Publishing Company

Participants in today's worship service: Rev. Armin Klemme, Jeanne Lischer, Skyler Grimm Hardin, Norma Klemme, Alysha Petry, Lee Parks, Tabitha Grimm Nolting, Bronwen Voss, and Sutton Voss.

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
Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry
Organist: Brenda Herring
Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

Administrative Assistant: Connie Thompson
Coordinator of Elementary Youth: Mandy Frick
Council President: Fern Dewert
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 Second Sunday of Easter +

April 27, 2025 + 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

APRIL 27, 2025

Welcome! We welcome Tabitha Grimm Nolting & Skyler Grimm Hardin into the life and fellowship of Zion Church this morning.

This Morning – Zion’s Green Team is leading the worship service this morning.

Serving This Morning

Ushers: Brad Parker & Connie Thompson Greeters: Armin & Norma Klemme
Camera Tech: Dan Mossoney Sound Tech: David Bean
(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.

Historical Display – The Historical Display Case during the month of April features pictures and history of Eden Theological Seminary. Stop by the display to see pictures of Eden Theological Seminary.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Sarah Berghorn	
Carol Bean (at Life Care Center in Sullivan)		Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)		
Anne Parker (at Willow Brooke in Union)		Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)		Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)		Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)		
S (Karen Stafford’s CASA buddy)		Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)		
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)		Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey)		Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
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)		
Eileen Lischer (mother of Jeanne Lischer)		Denise Robinson (friend of Gary & Karen Stafford)		
Kevin Niebruegge (cousin of Karen Stafford)				

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Skip Buehrle	Susie Andell
Ronald Dobsch (nephew of Charlotte Ellison)	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 Shawn Pehle)
Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)	Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)	Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)
Britt Fassler (daughter of Nancy Kossmann)	Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)
Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)	Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)

Various Concerns:

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Hunter Grafrath (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)
Ross Groenke (son of Cindy & Dale Groenke)

Adult Education Opportunities

This Morning - The JOY Adult Class meets in the lower commons classroom. They are discussing the book *‘If God is Love Don’t Be a Jerk’* by John Pavlovitz.

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning – All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; **Preschool** – ages 3-5 will meet in the Preschool Room (the nursery); **Faith Quest** – grades kindergarten-5th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; **Confirm NOT Conform** – grades 6-12 will meet in the high school room.

Church Calendar – April 27, 2025 to May 4, 2025

- Today - The 2nd Sunday of Easter/Earth Day Worship**
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education
- Mon., April 28 - 7:00 p.m. Church Council (classroom)**
- Wed., April 30 - 10:00 a.m. May newsletter assembled (fellowship hall)**
 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons)
 6:00 p.m. Drumming Circle (chapel)
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
- Thurs., May 1 - 8:00 a.m.-12 noon Quilting Circle**
 2:00 p.m. Outreach (conference room)
 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
- Fri., May 2 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use**
- Sat., May 3 - 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Lower commons in use**
- Next Sun., May 4 - The 3rd Sunday of Easter**
9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education

Mon., April 28 – Final articles for the May 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday, April 28th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, April 30th beginning at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Tues., April 29 – Are you concerned about climate change? A majority of Americans are, and yet it's hard to discern what the best solutions are. The Green Team and ECC's Green Committee is sponsoring an En-ROADS Climate Solutions Workshop on Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at East Central College. This interactive workshop uses software developed by MIT Sloan; it offers participants the opportunity to suggest solutions and then test those solutions and consider other factors (cost, economic impact, etc.) The workshop will be held in HS100 (Health Sciences Building).

Wed., April 30 – Meditative Drum Circle is back. Come join in community with others. Music experience not needed at all; only an open heart and open ears. Join us on Wednesday, April 30 at 6 p.m. in the chapel.

MMS-UCC Women's Retreat – The MMS-UCC Women's Retreat at Camp MoVal will be on May 2-4, 2025. The theme of the weekend is 'Women's Health Matters'. If you sign up for the day-only option, you are invited to all activities, including the Friday evening program. For more information check the bulletin board in the lower commons. ***Deadline to register is April 27th.***

Zion Fellowship Activity – Zion Fellowship is planning to attend the Dinner & Comedy Show at St. Paul's UCC in Marthasville on Saturday, June 7th at 5:30 p.m. ***Deadline to sign up is May 11th.*** A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board with costs, etc.. Everyone is invited!

Joyful Noise and Alleluia Kids will resume in the fall.

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.

Little Free Library – Just a reminder that Zion has a Little Free Library located close to the corner of Washington and Springfield Avenue. If you have any gently used adult/children's books please feel free to drop them in the free library or drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

CASA Is Looking For Volunteers – CASA of Mideast Missouri advocates for children in foster care in Franklin, Gasconade, and Osage Counties who have experienced abuse or neglect. Our trained Volunteer Advocates spend one-on-one time with these children, understanding their needs and concerns to advocate for them in court, ensuring their journey in foster care is safe and supported. There are children in our area who need a CASA! The next CASA volunteer training session starts at the beginning of June with an **application deadline of May 16th**. To apply, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit www.casamideastmo.org or call 636-583-4422.