The 5th Sunday of Easter

May 18, 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

Prelude *"We Hear Thy Voice"* Rasley

Call to Worship

More than kind or charitable, or even humane, this Love that calls us takes on flesh and bone and vulnerability.

We gather here to practice Love's solidarity, rising up in the valleys and shadows of death.

More than nice, or agreeable, or even polite, this Love that forms us risks siding with the last and the least.

We unite to become Love's liberation, building collective power to resist injustice.

More than tolerant or accepting, or even affirming, this Love that guides us opens to new visions of flourishing.

We join together to embody Love's accountability, laying down our defenses to grow beyond the edges of our knowing.

More than peaceful or unifying, or even friendly, this Love that compels us dares to imagine beyond empire.

We worship to remember Love's future, praying, praising, and protesting until Love's kin-dom comes.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Glorious One, farther than the furthest star, and nearer than our next breath, gather us in that we might expand our spirit. Search our hearts and minds, O God, and lead us in the way everlasting. By your love, grant us the courage and resolve to be your people for the sake of the whole world. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture John 13:31-35 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church…

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 51 *"How Great Thou Art"*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Love beyond all knowing, we recognize how deeply limited our understanding of love is, how often we fail to recognize Love's true practice and meaning, how much the powers and principalities of this world co-opt the idea of "love" for death-dealing purposes…

In the silence of our hearts, let us call to awareness the misunderstandings of love that have shaped us as individuals and that shape us as a community…

For the ways we have wounded your Love,

O God, forgive us. Amen.

Words of Grace

Let your spirit receive this assurance: in all these things, we are more than forgiven through the One who loved us.

Therefore, we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Redeemer. 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. 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

Let Love be our offering. Let Love be our giving. Let Love be our dedication. Let Love be our calling. Let Love be our thanksgiving. Let Love be our prayer. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture Acts 11:1-18 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church…

Thanks be to God!

Hymn No. 460 *"Breathe on Me Breath of God"*

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. 422 *"Amazing Grace"*

The closing hymn is sung in loving memory of ***Frank P. Fazzari.***

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *"In Joyful Praise"* Martin

_____

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 5th Sunday of Easter +

May 18, 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 MAY 18, 2025

Serving This Morning Liturgist: Colleen Simons
Ushers: Mary German & Sue Leicht Greeters: Ron & Pam Griffin
Camera Tech: Gil Bisjak Sound Tech: Matthew Herring
(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.

This Morning – ***Bread for the World Offering of Letters*** - The Outreach Team will again be sending letters to members of Congress advocating for funding for the hungry in the U.S. and nationwide. You are invited to stop by the table in the lower commons to sign letters to our representatives.

This Morning – ***Church World Service Blanket Sundays*** – We are again having our annual Church World Service Blanket Sundays this morning for those who would like to donate a blanket in memory/honor of someone. Each blanket costs $10 each. Stop by the table in the lower commons to donate a blanket.

Historical Display – The Historical Display Case during the month of May features pictures of Rev. Armin Klemme who will be celebrating his 100th Birthday in May!

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring
Phyllis Olson
Carolyn Donoho
Charlotte Ellison
Kim Yenzer
Kevin Vorderbruegge
Myrt Dunigan
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)
Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker)
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)
Pat Pappas (sister of Jim Doehring)
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)
Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)
Eileen Lischer (mother of Jeanne Lischer)
Randy Gortney (son in law of Hettie Becker)

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland
Jake McNiel (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)
Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)

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 – This morning will be the last day of Faith Quest classes until the fall. The Bible Buck Store will be OPEN! Children will get to spend their Bible bucks they earned throughout the Sunday School year.

Church Calendar – May 18, 2025 to May 25, 2025

Today -	**The 5th Sunday of Easter**	
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship**
	10:00 a.m.	**Fellowship Hour/Christian Education Hour**
Mon., May 19 -	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (classroom)
Wed., May 21 -	10:00 a.m.	June newsletter assembled (fellowship hall)
	12:00 noon	Loops of Love (lower commons)
	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Eastern Association Meeting (fellowship hall)
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir (chapel)
Thurs., May 22 -	8:00 a.m.-12 noon	Quilting Circle
	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., May 23 -	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., May 25 -	**The 6th Sunday of Easter**	
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship**
	10:00 a.m.	**Fellowship Hour**
	1:00-3:00 p.m.	**100th Birthday Celebration for Armin Klemme**

Mon., May 19 – Final articles for the June 2025 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday, May 19th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, May 21st beginning at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. PLEASE NOTE: The newsletter is being assembled/mailed earlier due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Wed., May 21 - The Eastern Association Social Justice Team presents "God is Great, God is Green: The Bible and Eco-Justice" at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 21, here at Zion. Eden Seminary professor Rev. Dr. Clint McCann will be the speaker. To join by Zoom, please register at www.allinmusic.org.

May 23-26 – Memorial Day Work Weekend at Shannondale will be on May 23-26. Volunteers will help at Shannondale with various small projects. For more information, check the flyer on the lower commons bulletin board or contact Jeanne Lischer for more information.

Next Sun., May 25 – The family of Armin Klemme is inviting everyone to celebrate his 100th Birthday with an Open House from 1-3 p.m. in the Zion fellowship hall. Please no gifts but a note or card are most welcome. For more information please check the bulletin board in the lower commons.

Sun., June 8 – There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 8th following the worship service in the sanctuary. This will be an informational meeting concerning the Hansen Trust.

Sun., June 8 – The congregation is invited to a Brunch Celebration in honor of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Gary & Karen Stafford on Sunday, June 8th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Liz at 314-650-6345.

Sun., June 22 – Our worship on Sunday, June 22nd will be a Hymn Sing. Please let Jeanne Lischer or the church office know ***by June 15th*** your favorite hymn and we will include as many as possible. (Hymns do not need to be in our hymnal.)

Drumming Circle – Please note: There will be NO drumming circle until the fall.

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!

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