

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 4, 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 "Prelude in F" Battmann

Call to Worship

You'd think, by now, we would get used to him showing up like this.

**Inviting us to cast the net deeper and wider.**

Showing us the way to abundance is leaning into new possibilities.

**We are starting to open ourselves to these hauntings.**

Encouraging us to share what we have and watch it multiply.

**Showing us the way to flourish is together.**

We are learning to recognize this ghost asking about love.

**Calling us to tend and nourish each other.**

Showing us the way to new life is new solidarities.

**You'd think, by now, we would get used to Jesus in our midst.**

Welcoming us to the worship that is love in action.

**Showing us the way to transformation is mutual belovedness.**

Let us worship God, because we know in our bones.

**Everywhere we turn, it is the Lord!**

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Is it you, Jesus? Are you really here? Is the message you gave us really true? Did the story turn out like you said? Can we trust it is you in the distance when the night is long and our nets empty? Will there be more if we share? Can we find you when we eat together? Do we love you when we feed each other? May it be so, Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture

John 21:1-19 CEB

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

**Thanks be to God!**

+ Opening Hymn 300

"In the Garden"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Lover of Creation, forgive us. We have not loved ourselves. We have not loved our neighbors. We have not followed in your ways. We have rebelled against your love. Forgive us. Engage us. Reshape our imaginations.**

Trade our complacency for your courage,

**Our pettiness for your possibility.**

Our greed for your goodness.

**Our aimlessness and for your adventure.**

Our carelessness for your compassion.

*Silent Prayer*

+ Assurance of Grace

Open your hearts. Hear the good news. God has not abandoned us God has not sent us out to find our own way. God is with us, all around us, at work within us. In the name of all that is, you are welcomed into the grace, mercy, and forgiveness of our Creator.

**Glory to the Giver of Life. 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

**Resurrected One, we gather earnestly, expectantly in need of your gracious presence. Guide us as we live out our faith in this place. Bless these gifts we dedicate to you and your realm, which has no end. Amen.**

Second Reading of Scripture

Acts 9:1-20 CEB

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

*“How Beautiful”*

arr. Larson

Kirk Hancox, soloist

(Please do not applaud after the Special Music, but observe a moment of silence. Thank you)

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 (repeat 3 times) *“Eat This Bread”*

Holy Communion

Invitation

An Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified**

**and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

Remembrance

Invocation

O Holy One, during Eastertide, we remember that our celebrations of new life don’t end with resurrection. It is this new day dawning that calls us to keep living into this newness by building up a new world. Let us cast our nets into the depths of our joy...

**That we may offer you our praise.**

Let us cast our nets into the wideness of our love.

**That we might discover the transformation we seek.**

Let us cast our nets into the breadth of our vision of God’s kin-dom come.

**That our work of hope is done in and through the Spirit this day.**

God of newness and abundance, we set this table with our prayers, remembering that it was you who set the table at that last supper with your friends. Bless by your Holy Spirit, this gift of grain and grape, bless us in our eating and drinking, that we might encounter the risen one in our lives. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread & 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

For the bread broken and shared, for the nourishment of each other,  
**We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.**

For dignity and belovedness, for the blessing of together,  
**We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.**

For the abundance of love that the world cannot take away.  
**We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn No. 344      *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*  
The closing hymn is sung in loving memory of **Carol Bean**.

+ Benediction

+ Postlude                              *"The Lord Reigns, Alleluia!"*                              Peterson

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The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Communion Liturgy was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries. Some of the material was adapted. Confession Liturgy was written by Michael Anthony Howard and used with permission by Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

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Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849

Home Page address is: [www.zionunion.org](http://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

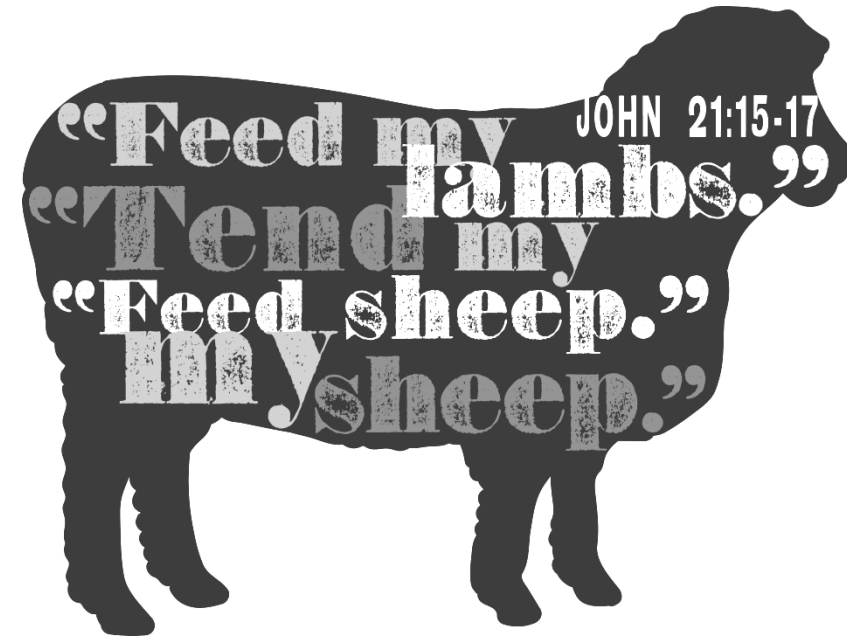
**We commit ourselves...**

**to worship God**

**to form faithful followers of Jesus**

**and to care for our wider community.**

*We care as Christ cares.*



+ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter +

May 7, 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 4, 2025

**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.

**The flowers in the chancel area** have been given in celebration of George & Beverly Elliot being together again from the Mike Elliott family.

## Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Sue Leicht

Communion Stewards: Alan & Sharon TenEyck, Karen Tucker, Connie Thompson

Ushers: Ron & Pam Griffin Greeters: Carl & Jane Ridder

Camera Tech: David Bean 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.

**Historical Display** - The Historical Display Case during the month of May features pictures of Rev. Armin Klemme who will be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in May!

## On Our List For Prayers

### **Health and Healing:**

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzen	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)	
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)	
Denise Robinson (friend of Gary & Karen Stafford)		Randy Gortney (son in law of Hettie Becker)	
Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker)			

### **Sympathy Is Extended to:**

Mike Elliott & family on the death of his mother Beverly Elliott who died on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The family of Rob J. Soetebier (son of David & Sandy Soetebier & nephew of Bob Soetebier & Kathy & Gary Reed). Rob died on April 25<sup>th</sup> with funeral service on April 29<sup>th</sup> led by Rev. Knoblauch & Alysha Petry.

Wayne & David Bean, Valerie Jankowski & family on the death of their wife & mother, Carol, who died on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Visitation for Carol will be on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 a.m. in the Zion chapel. Funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. in the Zion sanctuary.

### **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)

### **Various Concerns:**

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> 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-5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; **Confirm NOT Conform** – grades 6-12 will meet in the high school room.

**Next Sun., May 11** – Intergenerational Sunday School lesson on Palm Sunday– all classes meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m.

### Church Calendar – May 4, 2025 to May 11, 2025

<b>Today -</b>	<b>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
	<b>9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education</b>
<b>Wed., May 7 -</b>	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons)
	6:00 p.m. Drumming Circle (chapel)
	6:30 p.m. Green Team
	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
<b>Thurs., May 8 -</b>	8:00 a.m.-12 noon Quilting Circle
	1:00 p.m. Historical Team Workday (classroom)
	7:00 p.m. Lower Commons in use
<b>Fri., May 9 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Sat., May 10 -</b>	9:00 a.m.-?? Workday at Zion
<b>Next Sun., May 11 -</b>	<b>The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day</b>
	<b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Intergenerational Sunday School</b>

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

**Weds., May 7, 14 & 21** - By request we will have a meditative drum circle on Wednesdays May 7 at 7:00 p.m. as well as May 14 & 21. We will meet in the chapel. No music experience needed!

**Sat., May 10** – The Properties Committee has scheduled a workday at Zion Church on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m. till ?? Small projects will be done around the church. Any help you can give, even if it would be for an hour or two, will be much appreciated.

**Next Sun., May 11** – Intergenerational Sunday School lesson in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m.

**Suns., May 11 & 18** – ***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.

**Suns., May 11 & 18** – ***Church World Service Blanket Sundays*** – We will again have our annual Church World Service Blanket Sundays on May 11 & 18 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 next Sunday.

**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.

**Sun., May 25** – The family of Armin Klemme is inviting everyone to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 16<sup>th</sup>**. To apply, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit [www.casamideastmo.org](http://www.casamideastmo.org) or call 636-583-4422.