The Reign of Christ

November 23, 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 *"Now Thank We All Our God"* arr. Chesterton

Call to Worship *(Inspired by Psalm 46)*

In this present time, no matter what passes before us,
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,
God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.
As the world trembles in fear and worry,
May we find stillness and peace, knowing God is God of all.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.
Holy Redeemer, in the dusk of this liturgical year, we recall the beauty of our days together. The blessedness of Christmas love and the light of Epiphany move us to bring illumination to our neighbors. The hope of Easter and the strength of Pentecost inspire us to bring the Good News of God's love to this world. All of this is to create God's Realm here on this earth, where we follow the steps of Christ, knowing the endurance of the Holy Spirit abides with us today and always. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Luke 1:68-79 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church…
Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 348 *"Softly and Tenderly"*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Divine Grace, Jesus promises paradise to his neighbor on the cross. No matter what transgression the person had carried out, Jesus still promised a future filled with hope, mercy, and filled with your love. And yet, even when we pray "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we like to limit paradise for our neighbors. We quietly ask: What have they done in their lives that they must ask for help, receive assistance, and lack health? Yet what we don't realize is that their misfortunes are not for us to judge.
Beloved God, open our hearts wide to mercy – both in receiving and in extending it to others. May we shun judgment and open our hearts to a paradise here on earth where all your children can abide in peace and wholeness. Amen.

Words of Grace

Through the words and acts of Jesus, we experience peace, hope, and grace. God's love is beyond limits and will move us to open ourselves to the beauty of infinite mercy.
We are forgiven! Praise 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

God of All Time and Space, you call us to transform the world through the extension of your grace to all of creation. May we find new and creative ways to share our treasures, talents, and time in order to create your Realm here on earth. May we work to create paradise beginning here today. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture Luke 23:33-43 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church…

Thanks be to God!

Anthem *"Our Songs of Thanksgiving"* arr. Larson

Chancel Choir

We invite the congregation to sing along with us when you are cued. There are two verses, but they are not back to back. Watch for the signal!

Verse One

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing, He chastens and hastens His will to make known The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, Sing praises to His name… He forgets not His own.

(Break)

Verse Two

With voices united our praises we bring, Our songs of thanksgiving to You we now raise Your strong arm will guide us Our God is beside us To You, our Redeemer, forever be praise!

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.

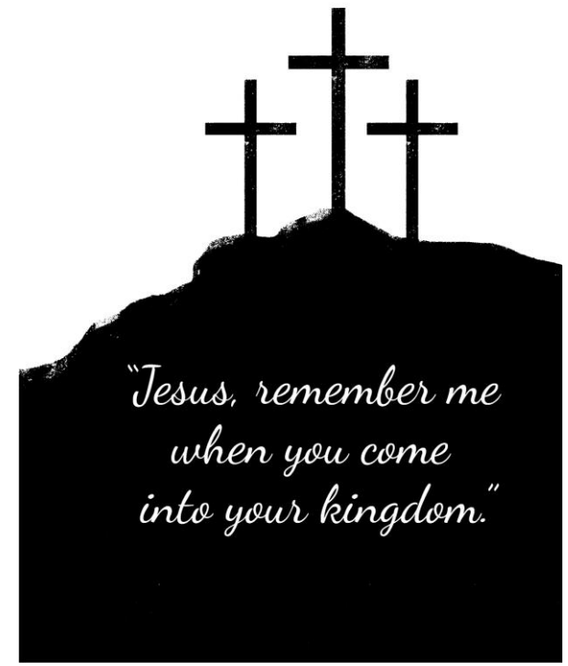
+ Closing Hymn No. 581 *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *"Triumph and Thanksgiving"* Ritter

Service Prayers for Reign of Christ Sunday was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois. https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/reign-of-christ-c-november-23/

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 Reign of Christ +

November 23, 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 NOVEMBER 23, 2025

The flowers in the chancel area are given in loving memory of Ken & Donna Staten, Della Steelman, Pauline Altholz & Delores Musket by Brenda Viehland.

Serving This Morning Liturgist: Maxine Harrison
Ushers: Alan & Sharon TenEyck Greeter: Linda Kinworthy
Sound Tech: Dan Mossoney Video 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.

Greening of the Church – Everyone is invited following the worship service this morning to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. Following the decorating, a pizza lunch will be provided.

Combined Christian Choir Concert – The Combined Christian Choir will present a Thanksgiving Concert this afternoon at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington, Missouri beginning at 3 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering to benefit local efforts on behalf of children in need and those who feed the hungry will be received.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring, Phyllis Olson, Carolyn Donoho, Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland, Kim Yenzer, Kevin Vorderbruegge, Myrt Dunigan
Hettie Becker, Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)
Anne Parker (at Aspen Valley Fox Crest in Washington), Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring), Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison), Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)
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)
Heather Frederick (niece of Marilyn Freiermuth), Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)
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), Pat Pappas (sister of Jim Doehring)
Vivian Diener (cousin of Hettie Becker), Marilyn Fish (aunt of Carla Kilgore)

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter, 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), Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)
Sammie Baker (friend of Brenda Viehland), Sharon Birke (sister of Ron Griffin)

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)

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Sunday – All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; *Faith Quest* – preschool through 6th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the high school room.

Church Calendar – November 23, 2025 to November 30, 2025

Today - Reign of Christ Sunday
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education Hour
10:00 a.m. Greening of the Church

Thurs., Nov. 27 - **Thanksgiving Day**
Church Offices will be closed.

Fri., Nov. 28 - Church Offices will be closed.
7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use

Next Sun., Nov. 30 - The 1st Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Advent Workshop

Chancel Choir Rehearsal Note – Please note there will be NO Chancel Choir rehearsal on Wednesday, November 26th.

90th Birthday Celebration – Sat., Nov. 29 – All are invited to the 90th Birthday Open House for Melva Puls on Saturday, November 29th from 2-5 p.m. at the Union Senior Center. No gifts please! Come and help celebrate with Melva and her family! **Historical Display Cabinet** has a display of Melva and her family. Please stop by and view the display.

Advent Workshop on Nov. 30 – All are invited to the Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 30th following the worship service in the fellowship hall where the group will make ornaments and decorate Christmas cookies. ***ALSO***: The Green Team will be at the Advent Workshop. Come explore the many ways you can use fabric to wrap gifts instead of paper (most of which cannot be recycled). Your donations of fabric, ribbon, and raffia would be appreciated - Christmas colors and designs are optional. There is a box in the Lower Commons for your donations. Thank you!

Winter Care Packages Collection During November – Donations are needed to help fill the Winter Care Packages for the Little Free Pantry. Items needed include: gloves, hand warmers, hand lotion, ChapStick, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, Kleenex, chocolate candy, hot chocolate packets, oatmeal packets, breakfast bars, granola bars, beef jerky, dried fruit, applesauce cups, nuts, trail mix, soup, Chef Boyardee cups, mac & cheese cups. Please place your donations in the Little Free Pantry basket in the lower commons by the bulletin board. Thank you!

Washington Civic Chorus Christmas Concert – Sun., Dec. 7 – The Washington Civic Chorus 91st Annual Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 7th at 3 p.m. at St. Peter's UCC in Washington. After the concert enjoy a reception and the Festival of Trees. Bring items for local food pantries to vote for your favorite trees.

Meditative Drum Circle – The next Meditative Drum Circle will be on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:15 p.m.

A Request from the Quilters – Zion Quilters are asking if you or anyone you know has quilts that need to be quilted to please contact the church office or one of the quilters. Thank you!

Hope Ranch of Missouri will be accepting several new teen girls as residents in the next few weeks. Needed supplies include: shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, body wash or bar soap, feminine hygiene products, facial tissue toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair brushes. In addition, household cleaning supplies are needed to replenish stores to save money for other uses. Supplies include: paper towels, microfiber cleaning cloths, Mr. Clean kitchen sponges, Dawn dish soap, dishwasher tables, rinse aid for dishwashers, all-purpose cleaner, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Swiffer refills, 33-gal trash bags, windex, toilet bowl cleaner. Please consider a donation of the above items and drop them off at the church office. Thank you!

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)

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