

The 5th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

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 *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”* arr. Wyrzten

Call to Worship (*Adapted from Psalm 100*)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

We will serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before God with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

Know God made us, and we belong to God.

We are God’s people, the sheep of their pasture.

Enter here with thanksgiving, dwell with praise, and give thanks to the Lord.

We shall praise the Holy One, for the Lord is good.

God’s love endures forever.

The Lord’s faithfulness lasts generation after generation

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious Host, gather us in, hold us close, remind us of our belovedness.

Take this day, bless our time, break open our callousness, and give us

your courage to follow in the way of your kin-dom. Renew our bonds

with you, one another, and this world you love so much. In your name

we pray, Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Matthew 26:17-30 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 649

“Gather Us In”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we get excited at your invitation. We are always ready to join you at your table, to listen to your word, and dine on your covenant. It is easy to be your disciple when times are easy. Yet when things go sideways, when the road is rocky and our confidence shaken, we scatter like sheep without a shepherd. Help us remain steady, keep us awake, keep us committed to your way. Amen.

Words of Grace

Siblings in Christ, the discipline of discipleship can be a challenge. We mess up. We come up short. And at times we even give up. But the grace of God, interrupts our despair, using forgiveness to renew our devotion. Whatever your failings, your shortcomings, your sins, know that God loves you, forgives you, and desires you to start again. By the grace of God, 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

Almighty God, we give you these offerings, in the good hope that you will transform the gift and the giver. Bless them and us to glory of your Kin-dom. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 26:31-56 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“And the Crowd Cried Out”

Althouse

Kirk Hancox, soloist

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.

+ Closing Hymn No. 617

“A Place at the Table”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Jupiter’s Theme”

Holst

Today’s Liturgy was put together by our national staff for the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering 2026.

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 in Lent +

March 22, 2026 + 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 22, 2026

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Virginia Henderson & Elizabeth Hancox by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Colleen Simons
Ushers: Jeff, Denise & Connor Muller Greeter: Linda Kinworthy
Sound Tech: Jason Dewert Camera Tech: Blake & Camden Dewert
(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

A special 'thank you' to Kirk Hancox for substituting at the piano today for our organist.

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

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.

Lenten Offering - This year's Lenten Offering will be donated to *Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley, Inc.* (EEMV). EEMV was formed in March of 1991 by Charla Shurtleff, COTA, to respond to a local need for affordable equine therapy and recreation for people of all ages.

Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds - Bring in canned goods and toiletries now through March 29th to help us build the 'Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds'. Items will be donated to the Union Food Pantry and the Little Free Pantry.

"These Days" devotionals for April-May-June are now available in the literature rack at the top of the grand staircase.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Hettie Becker
Sarah Berghorn	Melva Puls	Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)	
Barb Harvey (at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Wentzville)		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)	
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)		Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker)	
Hallie Sammett (friend of Brenda Viehland)		Sophia Muller (daughter-in-law of Jeff & Denise Muller)	

Sympathy Is Extended to:

Ron Griffin & family on the death of his sister Sharon Birke who died on March 17th.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter	Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Susie Andell	Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyllis Fink)
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)
Jenny Brittingham (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)	Matthew (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
Monty McGavock (brother of Kathy Young)	Julie Borgmann (niece of Fern 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)

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning – 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.

Thurs., April 2 – Bring your children/grandchildren to the **Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt** on Thursday, April 2nd 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!

Sun., April 5 – There will be NO Faith Quest on Easter Sunday.

Adult Education

This Morning – JOY Adult Class meets from 10-11 a.m. in the lower level classroom.

Church Calendar – March 22, 2026 to March 29, 2026

Today -	The 5th Sunday in Lent
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
	3:30 p.m. Memorial Service (Carolyn Houttuin - sanctuary)
Mon., Mar. 23 -	10:00 a.m. Audit Committee (conference room)
Wed., Mar. 25 -	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Mar. 26 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (lower commons) 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., Mar. 27 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday	
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

Lenten Book Study - During Lent, Rev Nick will be focusing on the days of Holy Week. Each week, we will explore a different day of the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. For those who wish to go deeper, there is a weekly book study on Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Lower Commons. It will be a book study on *"The Last Week: A Day by day account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem"* by John D. Corssan and Marcus Borg. If you are interested but the time doesn't work, please email Rev Nick, and we can set up a Zoom meeting in the evenings. The book study will continue through April 2nd.

Easter Lilies/Benevolent Donations – Sun., Mar. 29 - If you would like to donate an Easter lily in memory/honor of a loved one(s) the cost will be \$18 per plant. In lieu of a lily you may give a monetary donation to the Little Free Pantry/Union Food Pantry. Deadline to place order for Easter lilies is March 29th. You may fill out the form that will be in the April newsletter or call the church office. Thank you!

LOGOS Reminder – There will be **NO** LOGOS during Holy Week (Wednesday, April 1st.) The last day for LOGOS until the fall will be on Wednesday, April 8th.

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!

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 Mid-east 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 will begin mid April with an *application deadline of April 1st*. To APPLY, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit www.casamideastmo.org or call 636-583-4422.