

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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                      *“There Is a Redeemer”*                      Green

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 15*)

Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

**Those who do justice. Those who confront inequities and uplift the oppressed.**

Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

**Those who love kindness. Those who love neighbor, friend, and foe.**

Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

**Those who walk humbly with you. Those who follow your lead and answer your call.**

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Just and Loving God, we enter into your sacred spaces, in sanctuaries, in homes, in public gatherings, and in private places. You bridge time and space to forge us as a beloved community. You, O Sovereign, make plain the way of life for us. Encourage us to join your journey, to love your children and creation, and to contribute to your kin-dom on earth. Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture                      Matthew 23:1-12 & 37-39 NRSVue  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

**Thanks be to God!**

+ Opening Hymn No. 569                      *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

Mission Moment - Camp MoVal

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy Wisdom, you have expressed your hope for us and vision for life abundantly. Many times, we settle for a temporary truce over real peace. We avoid confrontation and accountability that builds up and creates a more just world. We refuse to relentlessly pursue your will when discomforted by the cost of discipleship. Forgive us, O God, we pray.**

Words of Grace

Receive the good news that each day presents a new opportunity to follow the way of Jesus—to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. The grace of the Holy One meets us. God embraces and supports us in the turning and will be faithful to strengthen us on the path of righteousness.

**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

**Justice loving God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust that,  
through these gifts, your kin-dom comes and your will is done. Amen.**

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 24:1-14 NRSVue

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Hymn No. 458

*“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

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. 515

*“Hymn of Promise”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

*“Lord of All Life”*

Broughton

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Today's Liturgy was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-22a-october-29/>

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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)

**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 in Lent +**

**March 8, 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 8, 2026

## Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Alysha Petry  
Ushers: Donna Bocklage & John Crane Greeters: Carl & Jane Ridder  
Sound Tech: Jason Dewert Camera Tech: Blake & Camden Dewert  
(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.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> to help us build the 'Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds'. Items will be donated to the Union Food Pantry and the Little Free Pantry.

## On Our List For Prayers

### **Health and Healing:**

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenser	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Myrt Dunigan
Hettie Becker	Sarah Berghorn	Melva Puls (at Americare Union Pointe in Union)	
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)			

### **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)
Sharon Birke (sister of Ron Griffin)	Jenny Brittingham (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
Matthew (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)	Monty McGavock (brother of Kathy Young)

### **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)

## Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

**This Morning** - Intergenerational Sunday School - all classes meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m.

**Next Sun., Mar. 15** - All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; *Faith Quest* - preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the high school room.

**UCC Climate Hope Contest** – The 2026 UCC Climate Hope Poster Contest theme is "A Future with Hope". The theme comes from Jeremiah 29:11. Kids and youth can submit their art from February 6 through March 20. Pick up the art form from the church office. There will be winners from each age category and the final winning art will serve as the logo for UCC Climate Hope advocacy work through 2026.

## Adult Education

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

### Church Calendar – March 8, 2026 to March 15, 2026

<b>Today -</b>	<b>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)</b>
<b>Mon., Mar. 9 -</b>	9:00 a.m. Worship Arts (conference room) 6:30 p.m. Finance (classroom)
<b>Wed., Mar. 11 -</b>	9:30 a.m. Called to Care (classroom) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 5:00 p.m. LOGOS 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
<b>Thurs., Mar. 12 -</b>	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (lower commons)
<b>Fri., Mar. 13 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Sat., Mar. 10 -</b>	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Next Sun., Mar. 15 -</b>	<b>The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b>

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**April Newsletter Items Due – Mar. 11** – Articles for the April 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

**Zion Cemetery Clean Up – Mar. 1-10** – Spring clean-up at the Zion Cemetery will be from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please remove any items you may want to keep before these dates and they may be placed back after March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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 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 will begin mid April with an *application deadline of April 1st*. To APPLY, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit [www.casamideastmo.org](http://www.casamideastmo.org) or call 636-583-4422.