Zion UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A faith journey for all.

April 18, 2021

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

ONE: God of the morning is with us as we gather with songs of praise.
ALL: Here we find respite from a busy, frenetic world.
ONE: We gather in this place finding the peace that God offers.
ALL: We are more at home within ourselves when we find our rest in Christ.
ONE: We are witnesses to God's glory, steadfast love, and faithfulness.
ALL: We see the beauty of creation and sing praises of joy!
ONE: We abide in God's love and keep God's commandments.
ALL: Today, we awaken to the call and show up fully to love one another.
ONE: Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer

ONE: God of light and life, we gather as witnesses to your abundant love. We are amazed to discover you anew through our prayers, our praise, and our offerings. God, you encourage us amidst our daily living to become stewards of your love and grace. We ask you to be here with us as we witness your love made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn** *#8* *Praise to the Living God*

*** Prayer of Confession**

ALL: God, we are often busy. We busy ourselves with quick responses and neat appearance. We get caught in the flow of hectic pace and too quickly give up opportunities to be still and know you. God, forgive us when we become so busy we forget to pray. Forgive us when we are so enthralled by devices and gadgets that we forget to look up and take notice. We fail to notice our neighbours. We fail to notice the needs of others. Forgive

us when we are so saturated by the news that we shut down completely, we forget that we are called to be your servants, your witnesses here and now. Wake us up to the work of love at hand. Forgive us when we choose apathy over attention, when become hyper-vigilant in getting what we want that we forget to attend with care to those we meet and greet throughout our days. We neglect to see the humanity in our fellow companions. Forgive us when we falter. Amen.

*** Words of Affirmation**

ONE: God knows our hearts. When we gather and ask for forgiveness, God forgives. Friends, be at peace; your sins are forgiven.

Silent prayer

*** Praise Response** *Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; World without end. Amen. Amen.

Greeting our Neighbors

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Time

As the children return to their seats, the congregation sings the refrain of *Jesus Loves Me* in Samoan.

O lou a-lo-fa! O lou a-lo-fa! O lou a-lo-fa! E si-li la-va-lea.

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

Psalm 4, pew bible OT pg 603

Luke 24:36-48, pew bible NT pg 110

Sermon Pastor Erik Graefe

OUR RESPONSE

*** Hymn of Response #***292* *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Announcements for the Life of the Church

The Community at Prayer

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

You are invited to share your joys and concerns with the congregation

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord; And grant us Thy peace. Amen

The Offering

Giving and Receiving Our Gifts

Offertory* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**

ONE: We are here to offer a portion from our abundance – our time, our energy, our resources. May we begin with gratitude, giving thanks to God who is steadfast in love and faithful.

ALL: God, we give you our thanks for all that we have and all we are. May the tithes, gifts, and offerings we bring be of healing service to our hurting world. May our collective offering be an expression of love and healing through the risen Christ.

SENDING

*** Closing Hymn***#473* *Blessed Assurance*

*** Blessing**

*** Postlude**

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**Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit.*

Liturgy resources for today's service are from *Seasons of the Spirit* SeasonsFUSION Lent-Easter 2021

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Zion United Church of Christ

We welcome all people on a lifelong journey of faith with a still-speaking God.
We are many minds in spiritual beliefs,
but one body in loving service to our community.

Minister: Pastor Erik Graefe
Secretary/Bookkeeper: Jill Schmutz
Organists: Janette Vogelsang and Judy Heintz
Choir Director: Sina Osa

Resources for Living our Faith

Reading for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19
Psalms 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36-48

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

The peoples of Belarus, Moldova, Russia & Ukraine

Prayer for the week

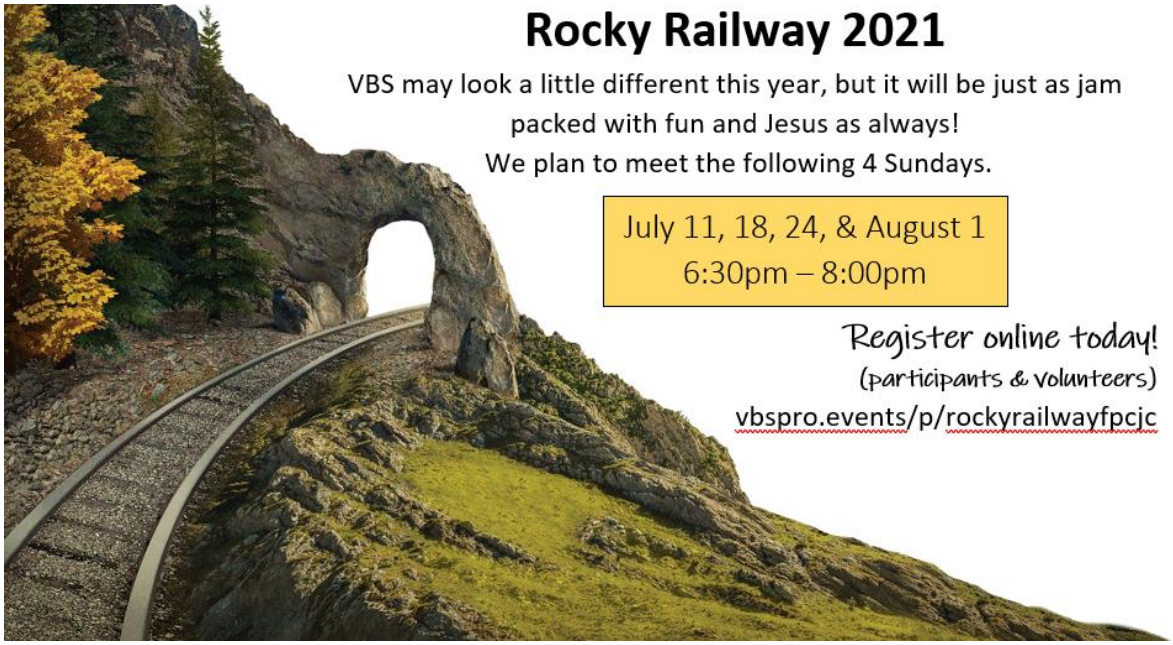
Ever-present God, we desire your transformative spirit among us. Yet, we confess that many times we only stare, mouths gaping and knees trembling, at the sight of your miraculous presence. Forgive us for when we stand in disbelief. Fill us with Christ's peace, Peter's conviction, and the healed one's joy so we may be your witnesses. Amen.

Announcements

Zion at Work in the World: May Giving Opportunities

Zion participates in several mission opportunities throughout each month. Here are the ways you can make a difference during the upcoming weeks.

· May 2—Food Pantry collection
· May 9—Heifer International collection



Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 18	*3rd Sunday of Easter* Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 25	*4th Sunday of Easter* Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Serving Zion

	April 18	**April 25**
Greeters		
Ushers	Kevin & Deb Heiman	Tammy Altwegg & Jill Schmutz
Coffee Fellowship	none	none

Jill's Office hours: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Mon, Wed, & Fri

Pastor Erik's office hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
If you need to speak with him please call or text 785-280-0852 or send an email
erikgraefe@mac.com