



April 25, 2021

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

ONE: In this time of worship and throughout our lives, we call on God. In moments when we search for the power to act justly,

ALL: let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

ONE: In situations when our lips long for powerful words to speak,

ALL: let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

ONE: At times when we feel lost and need to find the power to follow,

ALL: let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

ONE: When it is easier to hate, and we desperately need the power to love,

ALL: let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

ONE: God offers salvation, transformation, solace, and refuge. In it, we obtain the power to act, the power to speak, the power to follow, and the power to love.

ALL: In all we do and all we say, let us do so in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

ONE: Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer

ONE: Loving and living God, we gather together today, guided by you, our Shepherd. You protect and care for us; you lead us as we journey through life. During this time of worship, we ask that our ears are open to hear your word, our eyes are open to see your light, our hearts are open to feel your love. As your sheep, we know love, and we have heard the commandment to love one another. May our worship be a testament to your love and our dedication to love one another. Amen.

* **Opening Hymn #213**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

* **Prayer of Confession**

ALL: Standing before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, Peter cried out, "the stone rejected by you, the builders, has become the cornerstone." Like those who threw Peter and John in prison and placed law before love, we too confess that we have rejected the stone that is Christ Jesus. In our doubt, we have and turned towards false securities,

hopes, and promises. In our ignorance, we have invested in artificial love and cheap grace. In our defiance, we have denied our beliefs and ignored your guidance. We, too, have rejected the stone in these ways and others. In this silence, we confess our acts of rejection now (*pause*). Hear our confessions as recognition for wrongs done in the past and hope for transformation to come. Amen.

*** Words of Affirmation**

ONE: People of God, be assured that even though the stone was rejected, it now sits as the cornerstone, ever-present, ever-forgiving, ever-lasting. You are forgiven, stand firm on this foundation, proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ now and forever. Amen.

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 23 pew bible OT pg 617

John 10:11-18 pew bible NT pg 126

Sermon

Pastor Erik Graefe

OUR RESPONSE

*** Hymn of Response #293**

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

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**

ALL: To the one who has commanded us to love one another, we give thanks for the love we have received. Hugs, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, forgiveness, and grace. In recognition of all we are given let us now commit to doing love. Sharing, caring and sacrificing, being patient, generous, selfless, risking judgment, loss, disappointment. Let us offer all the love we have in all the ways we can until our doing becomes our being. Let us do love, let us be love, in the name of the one who is love. Amen.

SENDING

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*** Closing Hymn#597**

Shall We Gather at the River

*** Blessing**

*** Postlude**

~ TM

**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

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-719713.

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 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

The peoples of Armenia, Azerbaijan & Georgia

Prayer for the week

God of Love, we turn ourselves this day to the Good Shepherd as our inspiration and model for the sacrificial love for one another to which we are called. Fill us with the power of your name and embolden us in our acts of love. 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 25	<i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 2	<i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Serving Zion

April 25

May 2

Greeters		
Ushers	Tammy Altwegg & Jill Schmutz	Tau & TJ Osa
Coffee Fellowship	none	none