



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A faith journey for all.

Celebration of Holy Communion

May 2, 2021

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

ONE: As we gather, may our ears be opened to receive holy dialogue. As we pause from our busy lives, may our words be inspired in holy dialogue.

ALL: As we seek God's wisdom, may God interweave our presence and words to create holy dialogue.

ONE: In this time of worship, let us engage in holy dialogue, as children of God seeking to learn, seeking to teach, and seeking to be one.

* Opening Prayer

ALL: Vine-grower, during this time of worship, we come to grow and learn. You offer us life, nourish us, and create a space to thrive. May our worship draw us closer to you? Shape and form our hearts and minds as we hear your word, sing your praises, and seek your guidance through prayer. Strengthen us to bear good fruit today and in the days to come. In the name of the one who proclaimed, I am the vine. Amen.

* Opening Hymn #303

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

* Prayer of Confession

ALL: Life-giving God, you have gifted each with the ability to love, yet there are times we fail to act in loving ways. We confess there are times we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. Instead, we have ignored, coveted, stolen from, and hurt those who live in community with us. We confess there are times when we reject the love of others. Instead, we have been too proud, too busy, too narrow-minded, too consumed with our own lives. We confess there are times when we have not loved ourselves. Instead, we have neglected our needs, denied ourselves forgiveness and grace, put others before ourselves in unhealthy ways. In each of these failures, we have distanced ourselves

further from you, our creator and sustainer. In confessing these things, we desire to give and receive love more honestly and to abide with you fully.

*** Words of Affirmation**

ONE: Beloved community, you are forgiven and have nothing to fear. In the words of 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear..." Go now in love, forgiven and fearless.

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 22:25-31 pew bible OT pg 616

John 15:1-8 pew bible NT pg 133

Sermon

Pastor Erik Graefe

OUR RESPONSE

*** Hymn of Response # 349**

I Come with Joy

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: Generous Giver of Life, we bring before you now the fruits of our lives. In celebration and thankfulness for all we are given, we now give back to further your kin-dom. May these fruits meet the basic needs of those in our community. May they nourish and strengthen our community, and be used to grow bigger gardens to feed your children yet to come. You are the vine, and we are the branches. Connected in love, may we share all that we have, in your holy name. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord's Table is open to all people including children at the discretion of their parents or guardians. The elements will be served to you in the pew by members of the Consistory.

Invitation and Communion Prayer

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ONE: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise you name and join their unending hymn.

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

ONE: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

ONE: On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice. In union with Christ's offering for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

ONE: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ come in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Trays hold white grape juice and red wine. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served.

Sharing of the Bread

One: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The body of Christ, given for you.

ALL: Amen.

Sharing of the Cup

One: The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
The blood of Christ, given for you.

ALL: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

ALL: Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

*** Closing Hymn # 473**

Blessed Assurance

*** Blessing**

*** Postlude**



**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
Organists: Janette Vogelsang and Judy Heintz

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Jill Schmutz
Choir Director: Sina Osa

Resources for Living our Faith

Readings for 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalms 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

The peoples of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Prayer for the week

Divine Vine Grower, we give thanks for your perfect love. Please accept the offering of our good fruit. Form us and re-shape us so that we may bear more fruit and, in so doing, glorify you. 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, May 2	<i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 9	<i>Heifer International Collection</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Serving Zion

May 2

May 9

Greeters		
Ushers	Tau & TJ Osa	Keith Henry & Ray Kruse Jr.
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