



ZION CHURCH

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE
POURED OUT FOR OTHERS

29 December 2024
First Sunday After Christmas

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

WELCOME!

We're glad you're here! If you are a newcomer, visitor, or guest:

- ◆ Please take a **Zion coffee mug** from the welcome table in the foyer!
- ◆ **Nursery** is provided for children up to age 3 during Sunday school and both morning services.
- ◆ **Sunday School** classes for children, youth, and adults are available at the 10:15 education hour. (no classes today – Christmas program in the worship hall)
- ◆ **Children's Church** is available for children ages 3-5. The children gather just before the sermon and return during the final hymn.
- ◆ **Busy Bags** for young children are hanging on racks at the back of the worship hall.
- ◆ Please explore the rest of your worship folder for opportunities to **connect** and **serve** at Zion. **We're glad you're here!**

WORSHIP AT ZION

The Zion worship service has a structure and sequence that reflects the way scripture shows how God meets his people. God has made himself known to the world in Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, who took on human flesh, bled and died for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended to the Father's right hand, intercedes for us now, and will come again to receive us at the end. The church assembles on the Lord's day to name the name of Jesus, which is above every name.

- We enter his courts with thanksgiving and praise
- We kneel before him in confession and repentance
- We stand and hear again the Gospel's promise of mercy and forgiveness
- We bring our tribute offerings to our King
- We hear the voice of God from scripture
- We eat at the table Jesus has provided for us
- We depart with his blessing and promise that He will be with us until he comes for us again.

THE MISSION OF ZION CHURCH

By God's grace Zion Church will be a Christ-centered ministry committed to worship God by proclaiming the truth of Scripture and relating to one another on the basis of the transforming power of the Gospel.

As God's people living in community, we will equip one another to pour out our lives for Christ at home, in the city, on the campus, across the Midwest, and to the ends of the earth. This vision rests upon the supernatural work of Christ who alone can build His church through the Spirit's work in our lives together.

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

Prelude

Gathering Song — *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Trinity Hymnal 457)*

Welcome and Announcements

ENTRANCE TO WORSHIP

† Call to Worship *Psalm 97:1-6*

The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side. His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION AND PRAISE

† Come Into His Presence With Singing

All Who Are Thirsty

Call Jehovah Thy Salvation

Come Down, O Love Divine

Prayer of Praise

Confession of Faith – *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who

spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Preparation for Confession *James 2:8-10*

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Silent Confession of Sin

Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

† Declaration of Grace *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Song of Gratitude - *Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord (Trinity Hymnal 465)*

Giving Moment – *Doxology*

Sacrament of Christian Baptism – *Zachary Cole Nyenhuis*

WORSHIP THROUGH WORD AND SACRAMENT

Children ages 3-5 may be dismissed for Children's Church.

Children are always welcome in the main worship hall.

We also stream the service in the Hearth Room at the north end of the front hallway.

Preaching of the Word

Title: "Who Gets the Last Word"

Text: Hebrews 13:20-21

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*The communion trays have wine in the outside ring of wine-colored cups
and a juice option in the inner ring of clear cups.*

*All baptized Christians who are members in good standing with their home congregation
are welcome to join us at the Lord's table today.*

† Hymn of Celebration

Our God Our Help In Ages Past (Trinity Hymnal 30)

† Benediction

Organ Postlude



Hebrews 13

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

"Who Gets the Last Word"
Hebrews 13
Sermon Notes: 29 December 2024

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

457

Samuel ... named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12

♩ D A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

A⁷ D A D G D A⁷ D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

A⁷ D G D A⁷ D G D

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
 Prone to wan - der—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love:

A⁷ D A D A⁷ D

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

All Who Are Thirsty

Brenton Brown &
Glenn Robertson

voice

The musical score is written for a voice part in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "All who are thirs-ty, all who are weak, come to the foun-tain. Dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sor-row be washed a-way in the waves of his mer-cy, As deep cries out to deep... Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus, come." The chords are indicated above the notes: G, D, F#m, G, Em, D, G, D, F#m, G, Em, D, G, D, G, D, G.

All who are thirs-ty, all who are weak, come to the
foun-tain. Dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sor-row
be washed a-way in the waves of his mer-cy, As deep cries out to
deep... Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus, come.
Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus, come.

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Call Jehovah Your Salvation

(Psalm 91)

Gregory D. Wilbur

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The score is divided into five systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 7, 14, 21, 28).

Call Je - ho - vah your sal - va - tion, rest__ be - neath th'Al -

7 might-y's shade; in his se - cret hab - i - ta - tion dwell, and

14 nev - er be dis - mayed: there no tu - mult shall a - larm you,

21 you shall dread no hid - den snare: guile nor vi - o - lence__ can

28 harm you, in__ e - ter - nal safe-guard there.

From the sword at noonday wasting, from the noisome pestilence,
in the depth of midnight blasting, God shall be your sure defense:
he shall charge his angel legions watch and ward o'er you to keep;
though you walk through hostile regions, though in desert wilds you sleep.

Since, with pure and firm affection you on God have set your love,
with the wings of his protection he will shield you from above:
you shall call on him in trouble, he will hearken, he will save;
here for grief reward you double, crown with life beyond the grave.

Come Down, O Love Divine

Text: 15th Century
Music: Ralph Vaughn Williams

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff is in treble clef and contains the melody with lyrics: "Come down, O Love di - vine _____ seek thou this soul of mine, and". Above the staff are the chords: C, F, C, Am, F, G. The second staff is in bass clef and contains the bass line with lyrics: "vi - sit it with thine own ar - dor glow ing. _____ O Com - for - ter, draw near, _____". Above the staff are the chords: Dm, F, G, C, F, C/E. The third staff is in bass clef and contains the bass line with lyrics: "with - in my heart ap - pear and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing." Above the staff are the chords: Gm, Dm, C, G, C/E, F, G, C. A measure rest of 16 is indicated at the beginning of the third staff.

2. O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace till Love create a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord

1. Mar - vel - ous grace of our lov - ing Lord, grace that ex - ceeds our
 2. Sin and de - spair like the sea waves cold, threa - ten the soul with
 3. Dark is the stain that we can - not hide, what can a - vail to

sin and our guilt, yon - der on Cal - va - ry's mount out - poured,
 in - fi - nite loss; grace that is great - er, yes, grace un - told,
 wash it a - way? Look! there is flow - ing a crim - son tide;

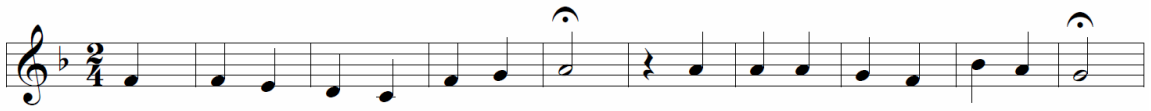
REFRAIN

there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. Grace, grace,
 points to the Ref - uge, the might - y cross. Mar - vel - ous grace,
 whit - er than snow you may be to - day.

God's grace, grace that will par - don and cleanse with - in; grace,
 in - fi - nite grace, mar - vel - ous

grace, God's grace, grace that is great - er than all our sin.
 grace, in - fi - nite grace,

Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow! Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low!



¹⁰ Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host! Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Ps. 90:1

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
 with all their lives and cares,
 are carried downward by your flood,
 and lost in foll'wing years.
6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its sons away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.
7. Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come:
 O be our guard while troubles last,
 and our eternal home.

Weekly Ways to Connect: zionpca.com/groups

Sundays, 8:15: **Prayer in Library** (*everyone welcome*)

Sundays, 10:15am: **Education Hour**

Tuesdays, 9:30am: **Women's Bible Study** (resumes January 14)

Thursdays, 6:30am: **Men's Bible Study** (Luke – on holiday break)

Saturdays, 8:15am: **Foodnet Distribution** (*you can help!*)

Mercy Offering: TODAY

This is a fifth Sunday. Four times a year, when a month has five Sundays, we use that fifth Sunday for a special offering for the Deacons' Mercy Fund. The Deacons use these funds to help those facing financial hardship and/or emergency situations that require monetary assistance. This includes both those in our congregation as well as those in the Lincoln community. Designate "mercy fund" on your check or other giving.

One Service January 5

Beginning in January, for the next months of transition, we will have one, unified worship service at 9:00am. The education hour will begin at 10:15 for kids, 10:30 for adults.

Women's Tuesday Bible Study: January 14

The Tuesday morning Bible study with Amy Handeland will resume January 14th using the book *Job, Trusting God When Suffering Comes* by Lydia Brownback. 9:30. Hearth Room.

Women's Wednesday Bible Study: January 29

Wednesdays with Zion Connection, Evann Gardels will lead a women's study in the book of Isaiah. Please look for the sign up sheet in the coffee house to help us get a good count for materials to order.

Rochester L'abri: February 14-15

Zion will have a contingent again this year at the annual L'abri conference in Rochester, Minnesota. This year's theme: *Pilgrimage In Uncertain Times*. Share rides, share meals, sit together ... contact John Anderson. <https://www.rochesterlabriconferences.org/>.

Sunday Mornings: zionpca.com/visit

Corporate Public Worship in the Worship Hall. Streaming to zionpca.com/livestream, Facebook (@zionpca), and Youtube @ZionPCA

Welcome Anne Ramsey, Music Director

Search committees met, job descriptions were drafted (and revised), applications were received, interviews were conducted, and we are happy to announce that Anne Ramsey joins the Zion staff as Music Director in January.

Secure Dropoff

Put checks, cash, or other sensitive information in the new Secure Dropoff mail slot in the main office.

Nursery: zionpca.com/nursery

Nursery care is available during the worship service and the Education Hour. If you have any questions or would like to serve, please contact our nursery director **Kelsey Nyenhuis** at nursery@zionpca.com.

How to Give at Zion: zionpca.com/give

God provides all we have, and Christians return a portion of that in thanksgiving. You can put cash and checks in the **black box on the foyer table**. To give online, use this QR code, go to zionpca.com/give, or Venmo @Zion-Church-2.



Year-to-Date

Budget: \$742K
Giving: \$751K
Expenses: \$765

Committed to God's Truth

We believe in a holy God who exists eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We believe the Bible is the written word of God, and we hold to it as our authority in all matters of faith and life.

We believe all people are sinners, justly deserving God's displeasure, and incapable of saving themselves.

We believe that Jesus Christ – God the Son who became man – lived a sinless life, died on the cross and rose again to accomplish our salvation. We receive this gracious gift through faith alone.

We believe the Holy Spirit gives Christians the daily strength and wisdom they need to walk according to His will and grow in holiness.

We believe that Jesus Christ will return to judge all mankind and to receive His people unto Himself.

For more explanation and resources go to zionpca.com/beliefs

Elders – session@zionpca.com

John Anderson, David Chambers, Keith Ghormley, Lee Grossman, Howard Huffman, Jon Jonson, Tim Kirk, Dennis Mann, Gary Young, Wayne Howlett (Emeritus), Jim Locklear (Emeritus)

Deacons – deacons@zionpca.com

Dwight Bender, Lee Dreyer, Jim Gage, Jeff Keele, Scott Nelson, John Parish, Monte Polivka, Pete Tompkins, Scott Weldon

Staff – office@zionpca.com

Rev. Tim Kirk	Interim Pastor
Rev. Keith Ghormley	Associate Pastor
Rev. David Chambers	Assistant Pastor
Jon Jonson	Finance Officer
Taryne Matzen	Church Administrator
Kyle Lindgren	Youth Director
Nicole Houfek	Children's Ministry Director
Kelsey Nyenhuis	Nursery Director
Anne Ramsey	Music Director
Joseph Ghormley	Tech Specialist
Lauren Wismer, Jonathan Vusich	Organists



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