



# WORSHIP WITH ZION

## Summer 2024



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

*The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

### **Prelude**

*Ode to Joy*

**Gathering**—We do not live by bread alone, but by the life-giving word of God’s love. “I am the Bread of Life,” Jesus tells us. “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry.” “Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” Come, Holy Spirit. Feed us with your grace and love. May we love our neighbors, ourselves, and you, so that we may never be hungry again.~

### **\*\*Hymn**

*How Majestic Is Your Name, 42 (2x)*  
*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, 88 (2x)*  
*Step by Step, 494 (2x)*

**Prayer**—Spirit of God, dwell among us and revive us. You know the deep hungers that motivate us, and the attempts we make to satisfy these hungers. You alone know the grace and peace that can nourish us to full strength, in body and soul. Feed us, Bread of Life, with food that lasts. Give enough to share with others who also hunger, even if they know not what they hunger for. We rejoice in your bread, for it truly satisfies. Give us the wisdom to receive it, that we may taste and see your goodness, O Lord.~

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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.

### **Exploring God’s Word for All Ages—A Place at the Table**

#### **We Hear God’s Word—*John 6:22-34 (NRSVUE)***

<sup>22</sup>The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with his disciples but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup>But some boats

from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which <sup>[a]</sup> comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, <sup>[b]</sup> give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

## Meditation

*Bread of Life*

## We Gather at the Table

### Hymn

*Take My Life and Let It Be*, 466

**Set Your Place at the Table**—Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

**Our Invitation**—Jesus says to us, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” Let us come to Christ’s table to find the nourishment we need.

**A Prayer for Transformation**—God of abundance, you long to feed your children, whenever we are hungry. Yet we often turn away and seek happiness

elsewhere. When we compete with others for status, help us support one another in love. When we measure our worth by our productivity, help us rest in the assurance that we are your children. When we avoid conflict, move us to speak your truth in love. Return us to your ways, Holy One, that our souls may be satisfied and our hearts may be at peace. Amen.~

**Assurance of Grace**—Christ’s table is open to all who will join the feast. Come, eat; be loved and forgiven. Then share this good food with all who hunger. Glory be to God. Amen.~

**Special Music**     *Communion*, sung by Vivian Thomas, written by Bob Cook

**The Words of Institution**—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.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God’s love...

**Blessing Our Meal**—Come, Holy Spirit, come. Make for us this bread and this cup to be the nourishment and nurture we need for our spirits to be renewed. Strengthen the relationships we find at this table with neighbor and with Christ. Empower us and embolden us when we rise from this table to share your love and do your work. Amen.

**We Share the Bread and the Cup**—Take now and eat, this is the body of Christ broken for you. Take now and drink, this is the cup of the renewed covenant, Christ’s blood given for you.

**We Give Thanks**—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.`

## **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**— The gifts of God bless us, and the invitation of God is to share those blessings with generosity, gratitude, trust, and love. Let us give of our time, talent, and treasure from the abundance of God's provision to us.+

### **Opportunities to Serve**

**August Benevolence**—Global Ministries

**Mission Moment**—The Pacific Basin Initiative

### **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—Generous God, thank you for these gifts and the privilege of giving. Increase our collective resources that we might serve your kingdom and bring honor to your name. Amen.+

### **Hymn**

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing, 712*

**Benediction**—Stay well-nourished by God's grace and share the bread of life with others. May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and forevermore. Amen.~

### **Postlude**

*Postlude in D*