



WORSHIP WITH ZION

Summer 2024



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

A Celtic Pastorale

Gathering—Our Creator blesses us with the heavenly lights—the moon that waxes and wanes, the planets that whirl around the sun, the galaxies that wink from afar. In the darkness God calls out, “Let there be light,” and the universe is filled with heavenly light. God is our creator, too, the One who formed us and who forms us still. May God’s word of truth ring out today with God’s call to new life!~

****Hymn**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets, 24

Prayer—Creator of the heavenly lights, there is no shadow in your divine light. It remains unchanging across the eons, even as the stars come and go. You are our faithful creator, the Gardener of our lives. You plant your truth within us and inspire lives of caring and love. We honor and worship you.~

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.

Choir

Everywhere I Go

Exploring God’s Word for All Ages—What makes a friendship last?

We Hear God’s Word—*James 1:17-27 (NRSVUE)*

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.^[a] ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God’s righteousness.^[b] ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth

of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[e] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Meditation

Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, 48

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—God calls us to a devotion that is pure and faultless. What does such devotion look like? Caring for those in a world with big needs and little hope. Let us give as generously as God has given to us.~

September Benevolence—Horizon House

*****Doxology**

We Give Thanks—God of every good gift, bless the gifts of our resources, our prayers, and our lives. Bless these gifts for the good of others and to the honor of your name. Amen.~

Hymn

Christ, You Call Us All to Service, 571

Benediction—The good gifts of God continue to pour out upon us, giving us inspiration and energy for every good act. May our lives yield a full harvest of goodness and compassion! Go and be doers of God's word of truth! May our lives honor God! Amen.

Postlude

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