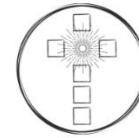




# WORSHIP WITH ZION

## Autumn 2024



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

### *All Saints Day*

#### **Prelude**

*Air*

**Gathering**—Praise the God of love. We rejoice in this abundant love. Praise the God of hope. We sing praise for this life-giving hope. Praise the God of new beginnings. We give thanks for this chance at new life.~

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

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*, 489 (3x)

**30 Days of Prayer:** Council, Church Staff, Care Team

**Prayer**—O God, you are our God, and we come as your people... Gather us in, that we may remember the ties that bind us together in your love. Write your law upon our hearts, that others may find us to be generous and loving friends. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may live in love—a love that transforms our lives, even as we help to transform the lives of others. In the hope of your miraculous love, we pray.~

**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.

**All Saints Day Celebration**—We remember the saints of our congregation who have passed away this last year. You, too, are invited to name aloud and remember those you have loved and lost.

*We Remember...*

William James McLaughlin

August 23, 1934—February 11, 2024

The saints of our lives whose memories we celebrate this day

**An All Saints Day Prayer**— Bless the many parted souls who lived their lives with grace. Bless the saints in heaven, gathered in that special place. May we tell their stories and remember all the ways they lived their faith and spent their days. There is glory and reward, even if at first there's strife. Oh, blessed saints, you help us see a path that's to eternal life. May we always

hold them dear and know their life and place. May we know their inspiration and aspire to their grace. Amen.\*

## Hymn

*For All the Saints*, 529 (all 6 verses)

## We Hear God's Word—*Mark 12:28-34 (NRSVUE)*

Greg Miller

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’ <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

## Meditation

*Not Far from the Kingdom*

## We Gather at the Table

### Hymn

*Come, Share the Lord*, 529

**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 said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst. In [communion] with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.’

**A Prayer for Transformation**—Righteous One, write your commandments on our hearts...not as a list of do’s and don’ts but as a vision of the people who can be, the lives we may live, and the world we may create. Write liberation of the oppressed, care and wholeness of those with unmet needs, and revelation and understanding to those oblivious to the truth. Emblazon your law of love in our hearts, on our lips, and in our journey. Transform us

with your love so that we may reflect your love toward our neighbor and toward ourselves. Amen.+

**Assurance of Grace**—Beloved, you are loved, and you have power to choose love in every moment and every encounter. Love has the power to lift, to heal, and to change. Let Holy Love move the mountains before you and the valleys within you.+

**The Words of Institution**—We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave...thanks...broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying: “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ’s coming again.”

**Blessing Our Meal**—Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may become one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until all things are made new. Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, Spirit of new beginnings, we praise your holy, eternal, triune name. Amen.~

### **We Share the Bread and the Cup**

**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**—As the people of God, we are called to be justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry, freedom for the imprisoned, and sight for the blind. Let us lift up those in need, as we share gifts for the church’s mission.~

**Opportunities to Serve:** Food Drive and Angel Tree Gifts

**November Benevolence**—Our Church’s Wider Mission

**\*\*Doxology**

**\*\*We Give Thanks**—Holy One, we thank you for our abundance and the privilege to share in the flourishing of our community and the world. Bless these gifts and be glorified by our generosity and trust in your provision, sufficiency, and renewing power. Amen.+

**\*\*Hymn**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, 358*

**\*\*Benediction**—Go to love God and neighbor. We go forth in the love of God. Go to welcome the stranger. We go forth with love for the world.~

**Postlude**

*Andante in A Minor*

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