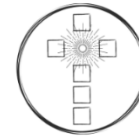




WORSHIP WITH ZION

Autumn 2024



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

The 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Thanks Be to God

Gathering— How great is our God? Great enough to hold us when we fall down. Great enough to love us when we feel unlovable. Great enough to sustain and strengthen us all the days of our lives.~

**Hymn

I Need Thee Every Hour, 476

30 Days of Prayer: Worship Team, Worship Tech Stewards, Vocal Choir, Bell Choir, Grief Support Group, Golden Friends; Young Adult Group

Prayer—God of grace and glory, you call us to worship this day. We arrive from the chaos of our world into the clarity of your presence. We set down the struggles of our lives before you in these moments to embrace the power of your love. May this hour bring us courage and a time to strengthen our faith.~

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 Together

We Hear God's Word—*Mark 13:1-13, 32-37(NRSVUE)*

Paula Prange

13 As Jesus left the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher, look! What awesome stones and buildings!”

² Jesus responded, “Do you see these enormous buildings? Not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.”

³ Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives across from the temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will these things happen? What sign will show that all these things are about to come to an end?”

⁵ Jesus said, “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many people will come in my name, saying, ‘I’m the one!’ They will deceive many people. ⁷ When you hear of wars and reports of wars, don’t be alarmed. These things must happen, but this isn’t the end yet. ⁸ Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other, and there

will be earthquakes and famines in all sorts of places. These things are just the beginning of the sufferings associated with the end.

⁹ “Watch out for yourselves. People will hand you over to the councils. You will be beaten in the synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings because of me so that you can testify before them. ¹⁰ First, the good news must be proclaimed to all the nations. ¹¹ When they haul you in and hand you over, don’t worry ahead of time about what to answer or say. Instead, say whatever is given to you at that moment, for you aren’t doing the speaking but the Holy Spirit is. ¹² Brothers and sisters will hand each other over to death. A father will turn in his children. Children will rise up against their parents and have them executed. ¹³ Everyone will hate you because of my name. But whoever stands firm until the end will be saved.

³² “But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. ³³ Watch out! Stay alert! You don’t know when the time is coming. ³⁴ It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. ³⁵ Therefore, stay alert! You don’t know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. ³⁶ Don’t let him show up when you weren’t expecting and find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!”

Meditation

Do Not Be Alarmed

Hymn

On Eagle’s Wings, 438

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation— God asks for hearts of generosity and gifts lovingly given. Out of gratitude for God’s trustworthy love and generous gifts, let us return gifts of gratitude to God.~

Opportunities to Serve: Angel Tree and Food Drive

November Benevolence—Our Church’s Wider Mission

****Doxology**

****We Give Thanks**—Faithful and loving God, thank you for blessing us and our world in so many amazing ways. Bless the gifts we return to you now, that they may be blessings of hope and signs of your faithfulness for all the world to know. Amen.~

****Hymn**

‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus, 442

****Benediction**— Go into the world with hope to shine with God’s glory and grace. Courageously face the struggles and joys of each day and embrace the power of God’s love. Go forth in courage and faith to bring God’s love to the world.~

Postlude

The Joy of the Lord

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