**Zion’s United Church of Christ**

**welcoming people,**

**uniting in worship,**

**receiving and sharing**

**the love of God.**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 28, 2024 – 10:15 a.m.**

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

**Bold Print** is an invitation to read those sections out loud together.

**Reminder:**Please turn off all phones and electronic devices.

Hearing assistance devices are available. Please see an usher at the entrance if you would like to try one.

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Call to Worship**

Pastor:  Friends in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?

**People: We bring hope for health and wholeness.**

Pastor:  What afflictions do you bring to worship?  Physical pain?

**People:  From illness and injury.**

Pastor:  Emotional pain?

**People: From sad and scary life situations.**

Pastor: Mental pain?

**People: From dis-ease of many kinds.**

Pastor: With all of these afflictions, it’s a miracle that any of us have made it to worship this morning!

**People: But where else would we be?  We yearn to know God’s powerful love and to know that wholeness is possible.**

Pastor: In today’s gospel, a person with an *“afflicting spirit” \** interrupts Jesus.

**People: And Jesus sets the person free.**

Pastor: And where does the miracle of this story and our stories begin?

**People:  When we bring all of who we are–Hopeful, afflicted, bold—into**

**relationship with the Divine.**

Pastor:  So come, let us enter this sanctuary with our whole selves.

**People–Hopeful, afflicted and bold-**

Pastor:  Come, let us worship!

(\*“Afflicting spirit” is a term taken from The Message, translation of Mark 1: 21-28 by Eugene Petersen)

**\*Hymn #172** *Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult*

*Please be seated.*

**Prayer for Reconciliation (Unison)**

**O Divine Healer, we confess that sometimes we yearn for you  
to wave a magic wand on our wounded lives  
to remove our pain, illness, and suffering.  
We hear the gospel story of the one seeking healing from Jesus and assume you will perform a similar miracle for all of us – if we just pray hard enough!**

**And we do pray!**

**Open our eyes to recognize the teachings and tools  
you have given us with which to seek healing  
in the midst of our afflictions and dis-eases.**

**You whisper to us that wholeness requires self-care and rest;  
*(what are some ways…? [pause])*You nudge us toward caregivers who can support and advise us;  
*(who may help us…? [pause])*You breathe into us energy to move and stretch and reach toward health;  
*(what are some ways…? [pause])*You place in us an urgency to seek justice so that all may enjoy adequate health**

**care;  *(what are some actions…? [pause])*Renew our spirits in the midst of our dis-eases and afflicting spirits.  
Transform us, O Whole-y One, for the health of your creation. Amen.**

**Assurance of Blessing (Pastor)**

In the midst of struggle, dis-ease and affliction,  
know that you are made in God’s image and God sees you as whole and good.  
So may you celebrate God in your midst through opportunities of wholeness and justice.  Based on Divine power in the forgiveness of your sins.  Amen.

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Gloria #759**

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*

*world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*Peace of Christ**

*Please be seated.*

**Message for Youth**

**Choir Anthem** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

arr. Roy Ringwald; text by Joyce Merman; hymn-tune by George N. Allen (adapted).

*Precious Lord, take my hand, bring me home through the night,*

*Through the dark, through the storm, to Thy light.*

*I have been to the mount; I have seen the Promised Land.*

*Precious Lord, precious Lord, take my hand.*

*Precious Lord, take my hand, bring Thy child home at last,*

*Where the strife and the pain all are past.*

*I have dreamed a great dream that Thy love shall rule our land.*

*Precious Lord, precious Lord, take my hand.*

*Precious Lord, take my hand, take Thy child unto Thee,*

*With my dream of a world that is free.*

*For that day when all flesh joins the glory Thou hast planned,*

*Precious Lord, precious Lord, take my hand, take my hand.*

**Scripture:  Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 (reader: Mary Cresswell);**

**I Corinthians 8: 1-13 (Mary);**

**Mark 1: 21-28**

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

**Sermon:  “The Great Healer”**

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Hymn #546** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

**\*Zion’s Mission Statement (Unison)**

**We gather together as a faith family in response to God's call. Throughout our history and today we seek to remain relevant to God's purposes.  We look to involve the life of our congregation with ministry to children, youth, and our changing community.  Dear to our hearts is the fellowship, witness and love of our faith family that we continue to share with all people.  We strive to grow through teaching and preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, by caring for the needs of one another, the community, and the world.**

*Please be seated.*

**Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord’s “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”**

**Prayer Response #769**

*Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;*

*Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

**Offering Invitation (Pastor)**

When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others,  
we are co-creators in the health of God’s creation.  
As we have been given much, let us give in return.

**Offertory**

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Offering Response #780**         *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host:*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Dedication (Unison)**

**Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation.  
May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love  
and inspired to give to others  
so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love.**

**\*Hymn #27** *From All That Dwell below the Skies*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**

And now in the wholeness and the goodness of God, go forth.  
Go and laugh with your friends,  
reconcile with those who have hurt you,  
be kind to strangers, and feel the Divine smile upon us.  
Now and forevermore. Amen.

**Postlude**

Acknowledgments - Holy, Whole One: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister for the Missouri-Mid South Conference, UCC.

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***Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex.***

**Those serving today: Altar Guild:** Julie Rhoads

**Financial Secretary** – Louise Griffiths; **Assisting –** Dusty Rhoads

**Usher:** Craig Strunk

**Those serving next week: Altar Guild:** Mary Cresswell

**Financial Secretary** – Joan Miller; **Assisting –** Brenda Ross

**Usher:** 2/4:  Susan Embody, Head Usher; Jim Whisler, Diane Andres, Joan Miller

        Dusty Rhoads

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – January 28, 2024**

**Altar flowers** presented by Mary Cresswell in memory of loved ones.

**Prayer List:** The grieving family of Austin L. Chinault (Pastor Austin’s father),The grieving family of Dorothy Yost,The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, The victims of the tornadoes and natural disasters, Richard Adinolfi, Alvin Behm, Marsha Biehl, Joe Brogley, Ed Brous, Irene Burkhardt, Joan Clouser, Jane Detwiler, Laurie and Peter Eaton, Jana Eschbach, Doris Evenstad, Ruth Hardaker, Betty Hawthorne, Chip Hoover, Kathy Hughes, Dorcas Kieffer, Jim Kirkhoff, Betty Leister, Robert Mackie, Eleanor Mauger, Daryll McCormick, Calvin Miller, Ollie, Dan and Lois Oister, Phyllis, Holly Rhoads, Dave Richards, Bill Ross, Christian Ross, Karen, Paul, and Scott Steffey, Lee Steiner, Bob Stengel, Dave and Pat Stout, Sandy Strunk, Dottie Taylor, Dotty Washburn, Patti Whisler, Barbara Ziegler

Please, contact the church office or Marsha Biehl if you know of someone who is in the hospital or needs to be placed on the prayer list. Names will be removed from the Prayer List after 3 months.

**Wednesday, January 31 –** Wednesday Crew

Quilters

Pizza and Ping Pong, 5:30 p.m.

Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**Looking Ahead**

**Sunday, February 4 – Worship with Trinity at Zion’s**

**Save your Redner’s Receipts!** Please, place your Redner’s Save-A-Tape receipts in the box in the lobby of the Sunday School building. We need the entire register tape in order to get credit. Redner’s will donate 1% of sales to our church.

**Get on Board with Market Cards! Support Your Church!**

Members and friends may purchase a Giant and/or Redner’s Gift card to use for groceries or gas. Denominations of cards come in $25, $50, or $100. There is no charge to you but our church receives 5% of the grocery card purchased. Gift cards to Redner’s or Giant are available Sundays in the Sunday School building or during the week through the church office.

***CareBag List for Pottstown Infusion Center***

Here is a suggested list of donations:

—Knit hat

---Neck Noodle

—Hand lotion/chap stick

—mouth wash

—Prayer shawl/ lap blanket

—diamond painted angel keychain

—a CareNote (or similar) booklet

—word puzzle book

—notepad and pencil

**Zion’s United Church of Christ**

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**Rev. Austin Chinault, II – Pastor**

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**“The only measure of your words and deeds**

**will be the love you leave behind when you are gone.”**

***Everything Possible* by Fred Small**

**Rev. Dr. Kris Hayden, Supply Pastor**

**Keith Clattenburg – Organist/Choir director**

**Laura Clattenburg – Music Coordinator**

**Kimberly Kulesa – Office Administrator**

**Frank Moser - Custodian**