

Zion United Church of Christ
Sunday March 10th, 2024 --- 8:00 AM
Rev Stephen Stark
(*Please stand if comfortably able)



Prelude
Acolyte
Ringing of Bell
Liturgist

Joni Kloeckner
Mallory Sommers
Usher
Laverne Laux

Welcome

**Passing of the Peace*

**Opening Music --- "God is Here! As We Your People Meet" --- #70 --- VS 1-3*

**Call to Worship*

The journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

Only in God do we find our rest.

Sometimes the road is easy,
and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

Other times the road is hard,
and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known in public.

Somedays we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

**Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge
and condemn one another.**

Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God
and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

**Opening Prayer*

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives, all that is beautiful and good, and all that is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Worship Hymn --- "Praise the Lord, For He is Good" --- Page Insert

Holy Scriptures

Old Testament Reading
Psalm Reading

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Glory to you, O Christ.

*Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

Here ends the reading of the word.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Depths of Love: "Loving the Light"

Rev. Stephen Stark

Prayers for the World

Service of Holy Communion
(Red Wine or White Grape Juice)

Hymn of Preparation --- "Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts" --- #329 --- VS 3 & 5

Communion Prayer

The Holy One be with you,
and also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

Let us give thanks to God, who gives us courage,
to the One who calls us to lives of service, we give thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder
Blessed is your presence among us.

Mystery of Faith

Christ was birthed among us.
Christ was killed among us.
Christ rises again among us.

The Lord's Prayer

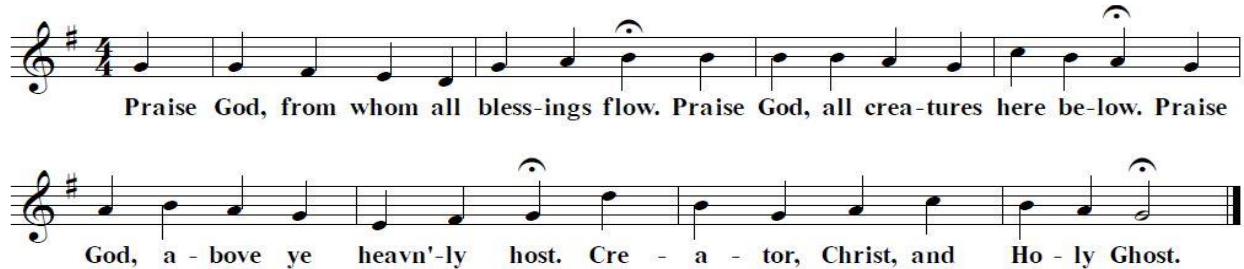
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey with Christ towards a just peace. Amen.

Announcements for the Good of the Community

**Offering*



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low. Praise
God, a - bove ye heavn'-ly host. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

**Prayer of Dedication*

Thank you, God, for loving us to the very ends of the earth and back. You became flesh to redeem our world through love. Your example has led us to give of ourselves generously this day. Please take these gifts and multiply them across this world that you love so extravagantly. Amen.

**Closing Music --- "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" --- #596*

**Benediction*

**Threefold Amen*



A - men, A - men, A _____ men.

**Postlude Music*

Pray for...Those Who Cannot Be Here with Us

Sharol Guerin, Dorothy Bridgeforth, June Mitchell, Bill Malina, Jody and Larry Cox

Pray for...Those with Health Concerns

Rebecca Catlin, Marc Grovier, Molly Stark, Jim & Judy Korte, Simon Romoser-Claunch, Logan Vallee, Rick Shepherd, Sherrie Patterson, Paul Sterrett, and Jane Heely.

Pray for...Ministers and Ministries

Belleville Trinity UCC Rev. Tim Powers-Reed & Belleville St Paul UCC Rev. Michelle Torigian

Announcements...

- Kids Collection Corner March – Cleaning Supplies
- Congregational Life Community Dinner Mtg – March 14th @ 4:30pm
- Fish Fry, Mar. 15th – Volunteers Needed!
- Ecumenical Lenten Service; Mar. 20th – First Baptist Church of NB @ 7pm

**March 17th Service
Volunteers**

- Liturgists: Leanne McDonald & Kathy Sinkey
- Techs: Rodney Washburn & Bev Adams
- Acolytes: Carly Zotz & Jonah Stark

Upcoming Events...

- Mar. 14th – HIS Ministry Mtg @ 4pm
- Mar. 14th – Congregational Life: Everyone's Table Mtg @ 4:30pm
- Mar. 15th – Fish Fry 4–6:30pm
- Mar. 18th – Council @ 7pm
- Mar. 20th – Ecumenical Easter Service at First Baptist Church of NB @ 7pm
- Mar. 21st – ONA Mtg @ 6:30pm
- Mar 28th – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm
- Mar. 29th – Good Friday Service @ 7pm
- Mar 31st – Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt between services

Online Giving QR Code
(Scan with your phone
to be taken to Vanco)



Service Credits

Communion Liturgy – adapted Communion Liturgies Lent, Communion Liturgies - enflashed

Call to Worship – Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries, October 2023.*

Prayer of Confession – Beth Merrill Neel blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.

Used with permission. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>.

Prayer for Lent 4 B - Rev. Abi, and posted on Rev. Abi's Long and Winding Road blog.

Prayers of the People – Tom Gordon, the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

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Zion United Church of Christ

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Website: www.zionuccnb.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nbzucc

YouTube: Zion UCC New Baden, IL

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Stark