

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 14, 2022

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Service of the Word



***Todd L. Thomas Art Collection: Christian Prophetic Art***

*painting by Todd L. Thomas-2009*

*from Fine Art America.com*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
A Service of the Word

*Jesus came with a message that divides, that will destroy sin and purify the earth.  
"The Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell"*

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*please stand as you are able*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *Betty Funk*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: In a world uprooted at every turn, come beloved of God for replanting.

**Many: Our hope and weariness are mixed together, yet we come, trusting ancient promises.**

One: The Holy One who led the people out of Egypt, yearns to lead us, too.

**Many: God will not rest until all are rerooted, restored, and renewed for rejoicing.**

One: Let us be joined to God's song of justice, bearing beauty into the life of the world.

**Many: May our lives be formed for faithfulness by the One who is always faithful.**

### \*GATHERING PRAYER

**Loving and Gracious God, form a new song of soul within us.**

**Take every fragment of our lives and fashion a new creation.**

**Plant us deep in the soil of your love, that your living water might rise in us,  
forming a fruit of possibility unimaginable on our own.**

**Grant us grace to trust your promised presence already meeting us here, now,  
and always. By this, gift us with a new strength of heart  
for whatever your love demands.**

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN - NCH 35 O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder vv. 1, 2 and 3**

**O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder**

Author: Carl Boberg, 1885

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Tune: O STORE GUD 11.10.11.10. with refrain

Swedish folk melody

Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

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**1 O mighty God, when I survey in wonder  
the world that formed when once the word you said,  
The strands of life all woven close together  
the whole creation at your table fed.**

**Refrain:**

**My soul cries out in songs of praise to you,  
O mighty God! O mighty God! (repeat)**

**2 When your voice speaks in rolls of thunder pealing,  
your lightning power burst in light surprise;  
When cooling rain, your gentle love revealing,  
Reflects your promise, arcing in the skies, [Refrain]**

**3 The Bible tells the story of your blessing  
so freely shed upon all human life;  
Your constant mercy, every care addressing,  
Revealing burdened souls from sin and strife. [Refrain]**

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks on behalf of God, and proclaims that God isn't like one of the local deities the other peoples around them know, but God is the God of the Universe. There were prophets claiming to speak for God to the people, but they told the people what they wanted to hear, instead of the way of God. God's word is like fire that consumes and a hammer that shatters rock. It calls us to change our ways and destroys the walls of injustice.*

**23** 23 Am I a God only when I am nearby, says YHWH,  
and not a God when far away?

24 Can anyone so hide in secret places where I cannot find them? says YHWH.  
Do I not fill both heaven and earth? says YHWH

25 "I heard what these prophets say—the ones who speak lies in my Name: 'I had a dream!' they say, 'I had a dream!' 26 How long will these lying prophets maintain these fictions in their hearts—these delusions of their own minds? 27 They think the dreams they tell one another will

make my people forget my Name, just as their ancestors forgot my Name and could only remember Ba'al. 28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell it. But let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. What do straw and grain have in common? It is YHWH who speaks. 29 Is not my word like fire, says YHWH, and like the hammer that smashes the rock into pieces?

### **A READING FROM THE PSALMS: Psalm 82:1-8 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 82 sings of God's power among other gods. In a polytheistic society, the psalmist sings of God's might and power, and how God looks to those who are marginalized, those who are poor and oppressed, against other gods. For other deities will not stand, they will die like mortals, and only God will endure. God is the God of all people, the one who judges the earth*

**82** 1 God presides in the divine assembly  
and pronounces judgment among the "gods":

**2 "How long will you defend those who are unjust  
and show partiality to those who are corrupt?"**

3 Defend those who are lowly and those who are orphaned;  
render justice to those who are oppressed and those who are destitute!

**4 Rescue those who are weak and those who are poor,  
and save them from the hand of violence!**

5 But you know nothing  
and you understand nothing—  
you walk in darkness,  
and the foundations of the earth  
are shaking because of your ignorance!

**6 I said, 'You are "gods," all of you—  
children of the Most High!'**

7 But you will die as any mortal,  
and fall like any ruler!"

**8 Rise up, O God, and bring justice to the earth,  
for all the nations are your possession!**

### **SECOND READING- Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

*The Epistle reading continues to follow in the letter to the Hebrews. Last week's reading began this section about faith, and how Abraham and Sarah believed in God's word. God promised that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars, though they only had one child and in their old age. They were also promised a new home, but when they arrived, they still referred to themselves as strangers in a strange land, a hint that the promise of God was still to be fulfilled. In this section, the writer continues with the stories of Abraham and Sarah's descendants but also some of the most notorious figures, such as Rahab and Samson, Gideon and Jephthah and others, to David and Samuel and the prophets, up through the first century and the early church, the martyrs of the faith. All of these were worthy, and yet still did not receive what was promised. These are our cloud of witnesses, so that believers may endure and persevere, shedding the sins of the world and looking to Jesus as the example.*

**11** 29 By faith, the people passed through the Sea of Reeds as though on dry land. When the Egyptians tried the same, they drowned. 30 By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days. 31 By faith, Rahab the prostitute didn't perish with those who were disobedient, after she welcomed the spies in peace. 32 What more can I say?

There is no time for me to give an account of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, or David, Samuel, and the prophets. 33 These were those who through faith conquered nations, did what was just and earned the promises. They shut the jaws of lions, 34 put out raging fires and emerged unscathed from battle. They were weak people who were given strength, became brave in battle and put foreign invaders to flight. 35 Some came back from the dead to their spouses by resurrection.

Others submitted to torture, refusing release so that they could rise again to a better life. 36 Still others endured mockery, scourging's—even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, sawed in half, even beheaded. They were homeless, dressed in the skins of sheep and goats; they were penniless and given nothing but ill treatment—38 the world wasn't worthy of them! — and they wandered in deserts and slept on mountains and in caves and ravines. 39 These are all heroes of our faith, but none of them received what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect apart from us.

**12** 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside everything that impedes us and the sin that so easily entangles us. Let us run with perseverance the race laid out for us. 2 Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.

For the sake of the joy to come, Jesus endured the cross, heedless of its shame, and now sits at the right of God's throne.

#### **GOSPEL READING – Luke 12:49-56**

*Jesus continues to speak about his purpose and the time of judgment in these verses in Luke 12. Jesus came with a message that divides, that will destroy sin and purify the earth. This message will divide family and friends and communities. The time is coming, but people are not aware of the signs. The people are hypocrites for they understand how to prepare from season to season and year to year, but cannot comprehend the vast transformation coming because of Christ.*

**12** 49 'I've come to light a fire on the earth. How I wish the blaze were ignited already! 50 There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

51 "Do you think I'm here to bring peace on earth? I tell you, the opposite is true: I've come to bring division. 52 From now on a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three, 53 father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

54 Jesus said again to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say that rain is coming—and so it does. 55 When the wind blows from the south you say it's going to be hot—and so it is. 56 You hypocrites! If you can interpret the portents of earth and sky, why can't you interpret the present time?"

## CHORAL RESPONSE -- He Is Lord—

Choir: Keith Konet , Barbara Rossington and Bob Bucklew  
Accompanist: Betty Funk

## REFLECTION – Disturber of the Peace - The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

### WE RESPOND

#### \*PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God, move in us, stir in us, call upon us out of our sleep to be awake. Awaken us to the cries of injustice and despair and help us to respond. Awaken us to what you are doing in our world and in our lives and guide us in harmony with your work.

Awaken us to the promise of new life and help us to live into that truth for one another. For in you we live, move, and have our being, Spirit of Life. Fall fresh upon us, mold us and make us into who you desire us to be. In the name of the Only Begotten, the Living One, we pray. Amen.

#### \*HYMN – Pilgrim Hymnal (blue) 348-- My Faith Looks Up to Thee

##### My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Author: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887; alt.

Tune: OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

Composer: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray;  
take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
be wholly thine!

2 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart;  
my zeal inspire!  
As thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread,  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide.  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrows tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

## **INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

We live in a more than enough world, created by a God who lavishes abundance. Today, we are privileged to join God's motion of generosity. When we add our gifts, God multiplies them for good, and joy mysteriously rises. This is God's will and way. May we be joined to it.

### **THE OFFERTORY – *Betty Funk***

#### **\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY**

**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.**

#### **\*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

**We thank you, Loving God,  
that sourness gives way  
to sweetness  
when we answer your call to be generous.  
Multiply these gifts and your spirit in us,  
that the world may know your life-giving will and way.  
Amen**

### **CHORAL HYMN - Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled**

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew  
Accompanist: Betty Funk*

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER – using “debts” and “debtors”**

**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 and ever. Amen**

## GOING FORTH

### \*PARTING HYMN - NCH 573- Lead On Eternal Sovereign

#### Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Author: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

Word alterations © 1957392 The Pilgrim Press

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.67.6.D.

Composer: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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**1 Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;  
Loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:  
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,  
To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.**

**2 Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,  
For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:  
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,  
Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.**

**3 Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;  
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,  
To love and serve each other for all eternity.**

### \*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: In faith, we have worshiped the God of all grace and hope.

**Many: By faith, we will go to be poured out for all around us.**

One: Through faith, we have come to follow the Servant of the poor.

**Many: With faith, we will go with our companions,  
justice and righteousness, to serve those who are oppressed.**

One: By faith, we learn the songs of the Spirit of love.

**Many: In faith, we will sing these songs with those  
for whom the music has gone silent. Amen.**

### POSTLUDE – *Betty Funk*

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for August 14th, 2022 (Pentecost 10/Trinity 9/Proper 15 Ordinary 20 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 8th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>
- (2) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from *Song for the Vineyard: Service prayers for the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost-Proper 15* were written by Rev. Dr. Dave Long-

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- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from Worship Resources for August 14th, 2022—Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on August 5th, 2022, on her blog, Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

## Season after Pentecost - Ordinary Time

The longest season of the liturgical calendar is filled with Sundays called "Ordinary Time." **The season - called the Season after Pentecost or Ordinary Time - began with Trinity Sunday and ends with Reign of Christ Sunday (the Sunday before the start of Advent).** If you're like me, you might hear "ordinary time" as "boring time." But that's not the case! The word "ordinary" most likely means "numbered" here (think ordinal numbers), because the Sundays of Ordinary Time are numbered. **In this season we move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world to focusing toward the impact of being in Christ in the world. A life in the unity of the Trinity is one of being shaped and sent**

**daily in the image and in the purpose of Holy Love.** The liturgical color for this season is green. During the Season after Pentecost, we focus on the life of the Church as it grows in the midst of the world.

*“When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always.”*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*

## **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- The families of Ruth Whitfield, 86; Roberta Drury, 32; Aaron Salter, 55; Heyward Patterson, 67; Pearl Young, 77; Geraldine Talley, 62; Celestine Chaney, 65; Katherine Massey, 72; Margus Morrison, 52; and Andre Mackneil, 53 killed last week in a racist-inspired mass shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.
- The family and friends of John Cheng, 52, killed in a mass shooting at a church reception in Laguna Woods, California on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The families and friends of the 19 children (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders) and two teachers murdered in the massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas: Alexandria Aniyah Rubio, 10; Alithia Ramirez, 10; Amerie Jo Garza, 10; Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez, 10; Eliahana Cruz Torres, 10; Eliana “Ellie” Garcia, 9; Eva Mireles, 44 (fourth grade teacher); Irma Garcia (fourth grade teacher); Jackie Cazares, 10; Jailah Nicole Silguero, 10; Jayce Luevanos, 10; Jose Flores, 10; Layla Salazar, 10; Makenna Lee Elrod, 10; Maite Rodriguez; Miranda Mathis, 11; Nevaeh Bravo; Rojelio Torres, 10; Tess Marie Mata; Uziyah Garcia, 10; and Xavier Lopez, 10.
- The families and friends of the those killed in the mass shooting at a medical center in Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 1<sup>st</sup>: two doctors, Preston Phillips, 59 and Stephanie Husen, 48; a receptionist, Amanda Glenn, 40; and a visitor/patient, William Love, 73.
- The families and friends of those killed in the shootings at a potluck dinner on June 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama: 84-year-old Walter Rainey, 75-year-old Sarah Yeager and 84-year-old Jane Pounds.
- The family and friends of those killed at the mass shooting at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Highland Park, Illinois: Irina and Kevin McCarthy; Eduardo Uvaldo, 69; Katherine Goldstein, 64; Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, 78; Jacquelyn Sundheim, 63; and Stephen Straus, 88.

- **May God be revealed in their stories and the tears of all who mourn. May their memory be a blessing and their life in God's good care last forever.**
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Tonga affected by the eruption of an undersea volcano and tsunami flooding.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 407 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 11th, 2022. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara, and Michael Reed.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet
  - Marcia Leslie (*neighbor and friend – health concerns*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (*fell at home and injured her knee and leg, presently at O'Neill Healthcare, Room 103, 7250 Old Oak Blvd., Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130 – 440.863.5624*)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter
  - Patricia Matheny (prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray)
  - Lee Matsos and family
  - Barbara Rossington (*move to a new senior housing community*)

- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- The family of Michael O’Brien particularly his wife, Debbie Webb (*following Michael’s death last Fall. Our love and sympathy to Debbie and Michael’s family*).
- Beverly Wurm (*recuperating*)

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA  
c/o Heartland Conference UCC  
P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time.**

### **ZION’S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, BEVERLY WURM**

Beverly has begun a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are:

Monday – 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 11am – 4pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

**Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).**