

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



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A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (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

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. To the left of a QR code is an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. Below the QR code is a small map of the Hawaiian Islands. At the bottom left, the text "We are praying with Maui." is written in a white, italicized font. At the bottom right is the logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the website "www.hcucc.org" is listed below it.

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

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Collage - Artist Unknown

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-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

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Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

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One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

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You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
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of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

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you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
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They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

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will give comfort to all its ruins—
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Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship *(Inspired by Psalm 138)*

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

**Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.
Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.**

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



DONATE

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
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- (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

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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!

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1039 Bridlewood Drive

Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

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New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. Below the URL, there is a paragraph of italicized text: "We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas." To the right of this text is a QR code and an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. At the bottom left, another paragraph of italicized text reads: "We are praying with Maui." At the bottom right, there is a logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ and the website address "www.hcucc.org".

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

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One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
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***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

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Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

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Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

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



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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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

“Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith.”
-Lailah Gifty Akita-

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship *(Inspired by Psalm 138)*

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God’s people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (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

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

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We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. To the left of a QR code is an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. Below the QR code is the logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ. At the bottom left, the text "We are praying with Maui." is written in a white, serif font. The website "www.hcucc.org" is at the bottom right.

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

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- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
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Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
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Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (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

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
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Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
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Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (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

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. To the left of a QR code is the text "We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas." Below this is an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. At the bottom left, it says "We are praying with Maui." The bottom right features the logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ and the website "www.hcucc.org".

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

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God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. Below the URL, there is a paragraph of italicized text, an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart, and a QR code. At the bottom left, another paragraph of italicized text is present. At the bottom right, there is a logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ and the website "www.hcucc.org".

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship *(Inspired by Psalm 138)*

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. Below the URL, there is a paragraph of italicized text: "We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas." To the right of this text is a QR code and an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. At the bottom left, another paragraph of italicized text reads: "We are praying with Maui." At the bottom right, there is a logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ and the website "www.hcucc.org".

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
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www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. To the left of a QR code is an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. Below the QR code is a small map of the Hawaiian Islands. At the bottom left, the text "We are praying with Maui." is written in a white, italicized font. At the bottom right is the logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the website "www.hcucc.org" is listed below it.

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
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- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
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- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
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- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 463 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 23rd, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (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

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

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- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
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- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant and various variant surges: 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 (*health concerns*) and family. *Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.*
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
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- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 27th, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A)

A Service of the Word



“Matthew 16: Who Do You Say I Am?”

Collage - Artist Unknown

Posted on the blog:

A Kingdom Year - Reading N. T. Wright's "The Kingdom New Testament"

by Jason Knight, 2012

<https://kingdomnewtestament.wordpress.com/>



August 27th, 2023
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Ordinary 21-A
A Service of the Word

**"Be bold in mind, in spirit and in faith."
-Lailah Gifty Akita-**

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - Keith Konet

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 138)

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We stand in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation, for the Sovereign One remembers God's people

***Invocation**

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you.

You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love.

May our time together in this space, onsite or online, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love.

We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn – Pilgrim Hymnal 38 – Morning Has Broken**

Morning Has Broken

Author: Eleanor H. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Tune: BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Harmonizer: David Evans, 1874 - 1948

Source: Gaelic traditional melody

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**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!**

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

**3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

In verses 1-3, the prophet calls the people to look back to their beginnings – to look back to their own beginning as a people, the culture and faith that shaped them. To look to the ancestors, and their story of faith. To look back, and see where God has been faithful, and God will be faithful again to the people coming out of exile in Babylon. In verses 4-6, the prophet turns to God's voice, calling the people to listen to God's teaching and justice. God's deliverance is near for all people. In a glimpse of the future, the prophet declares that the division of heaven and earth will pass, along with the people, but God's salvation will endure forever.

51 1 Listen closely to what I say,
you who pursue justice,
you who seek YHWH,
consider the rock from which you were hewn,
the quarry from which you were cut:
2 Look to Abraham, your father,
and Sarah, your mother who bore you.

They were but one couple when I called them,
but I blessed them and made them many.

3 Indeed, YHWH will comfort Zion,
will give comfort to all its ruins—
will turn its desert into an Eden;
its desert will be like the garden of YHWH.
Joy and happiness will be found there,
thanksgiving and the sound of music.

4 “Hear me, my people!
Listen to me, my nation!
For Instruction comes from me,
and my justice will be a beacon to the peoples.

5 My vindication draws near,
my deliverance approaches;
my arm will bring justice to the people
and the islands will put their hope in me.
They will put their future in my hands.

6 Lift your eyes and look up to the heavens,
then look to the earth below:
for the heavens will vanish like smoke;
the earth will wear out like a coat,
and those who live on it will die like flies.
But my liberation will last forever,
my vindication will never fail.

Psalm Response: Psalm 138:1-8 (Responsively)

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for God’s deliverance. Attributed to King David, the psalmist thanks God for answering their prayer. The psalmist calls all the rulers of the earth to praise God. In an echo of Psalm 23, the psalmist knows that even among their enemies, God is present with the singer and will deliver them, for God’s steadfast love endures forever. God will fulfill the psalmist’s intended purpose, however God sees fit

138 1 I thank you with all my heart;
I sing your praise before the gods.

**2 I bow down in front of your holy temple
and praise your Name
because of your love and faithfulness,
for you have put above everything else
your Name and your word.**

3 When I called, you answered me—
you made me bold and strong of heart.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God,
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

5 they will sing about what you have done, God,
and about your great glory.

**6 Even though you are so high above,
you care for those who are lowly
and see arrogant people from far away.**

7 Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe;
you oppose the anger of my enemies,
and save me with your right hand.

**8 You will do everything
you have promised me.
God, your love is eternal;
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Second Reading: Roman 12:1-8

The Epistle reading continues its series in Romans this season with these verses in chapter 12. The apostle Paul changes gears in this part of the letter, having successfully argued that Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ, that oneness in Christ means believers live life anew. The believer's very life is a living sacrifice, a witness to God's work in the world. Though each person is different with different gifts and abilities, all gifts, all members are necessary as the body of Christ.

12 1 Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

3 In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function—5 so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. 7 If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your

gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus questions the disciples about who they think he is in this reading from Matthew 16. He first asks the disciples who people say the Chosen One is, and they respond with the various answers: John the Baptizer, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Peter responded with “You are the Messiah, the Firstborn of the Living God.” Jesus is delighted that Peter understands this and what has been revealed by God to him, and that the church will be built on that foundation—that Jesus is the Christ. However, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. It seemed important in Matthew and Mark’s account that believers discern this for themselves.

16 13 When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: “What do people say about who the Chosen One is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “And you,” he said, “who do you say that I am?”

16 “You are the Messiah,” Simon Peter answered, “the Firstborn of the Living God!”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my Abba God in heaven. 18 I also tell you this: your name now is Peter - ‘Rock,’ and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it.

19 “Here—I’ll give you the keys to the reign of heaven:
whatever you declare bound on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you declare loosed on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
A Capella*

Reflection – “Who Do You Say Jesus Is?” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Maker of the Earth, we give thanks that the seasons continue to change.

In the southern hemisphere, winter is preparing to thaw into spring. In the north, we look to

fall and cooler temperatures. We pray for an end to the wildfires and scorching heat, we pray for the safety of students heading back to school, we pray for teachers and principals, nurses and librarians—that all may know your grace and care.

As the seasons turn, may we be open to our own minds changing. May we be open to our connection to the earth, the beauty of creation and the bounty of springtime and harvest. May we be open to new insights and ideas and learning. May we be open to new people who express your image in new ways, remembering that all of us reflect your divinity.

Great Creator, guide us through this seasonal transition, open to where you may lead us next. Amen.

*** Hymn – There Are Many Ways of Sharing**

(sung to the tune of NCH 459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing)

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Source: Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009).

Carolyn's Hymns. <https://www.carolynshymns.com>

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Anonymous

Source: John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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**1 There are many ways of sharing,
But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring;
It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing,
May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing
For the common good of all.**

**2 We've been baptized in the waters!
We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters,
You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration
Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation;
Give each one a servant's heart.**

**3 All are blessed by gifts you give us;
Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us
As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions;
Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision
As we serve your church and world.**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven." With such an unimaginable gift, we may be assured that our generous response will be greeted with more abundance. Let us devote the resources of our lives to the advancement of the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Offertory - *Keith Konet*

***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**

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kin-dom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 386 – The Church's One Foundation vv. 1, 2, & 3**

The Church's One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious,
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,
Many: willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,
Many: ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Spirit's hopes,
Many: eager to proclaim peace to all. Amen.

***Postlude - Keith Konet**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Identity: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from - *Worship Resources for August 27th, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, posted August 17th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from August 27th, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 20th 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (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

Keith Konet: Interim Music Director and Pianist

Keith Konet, Council President

Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



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 placed in the offering basket or 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



D O N A T E

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.hcucc.org

A pink rectangular graphic with white and blue text. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large, white, spaced-out letters. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in a smaller, italicized font. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. Below the URL, there is a paragraph of italicized text: "We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas." To the right of this text is a QR code and an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. At the bottom left, another paragraph of italicized text reads: "We are praying with Maui." At the bottom right, there is a logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ and the website address "www.hcucc.org".

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

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
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven

fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. Approximately 1,300 people remain missing. The proliferation of the wildfires is attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.

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- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to zionchurchtremont@gmail.com, with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."