

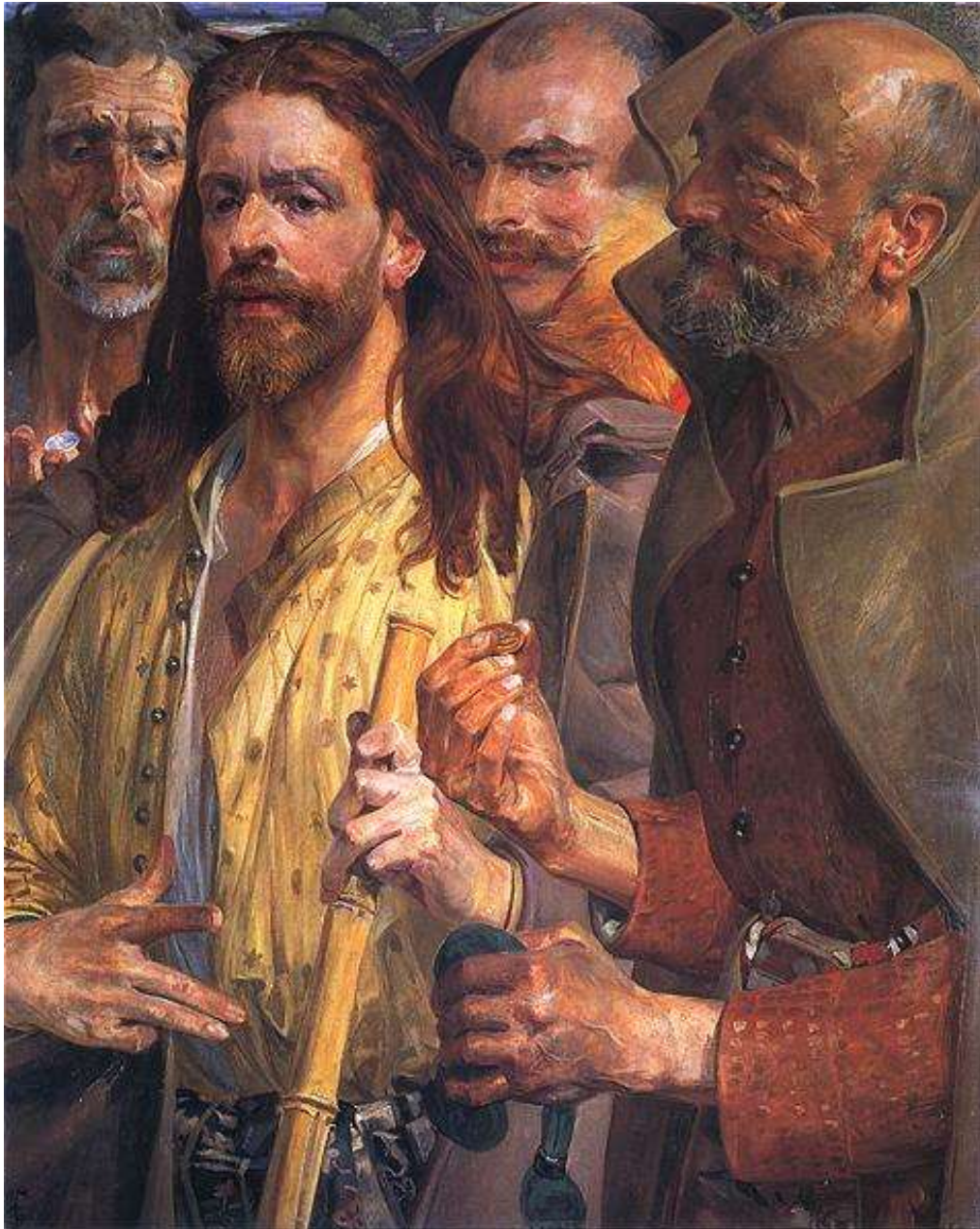
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



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“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital. The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, surrounded by astronomical instruments and books. The text is overlaid on the painting.

Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Projekt „Polski za Granicą” realizowany w ramach budżetu państwa w ramach
iniciatywy „Solidarny przez Funduszy Wzrostu i Rozwoju”

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

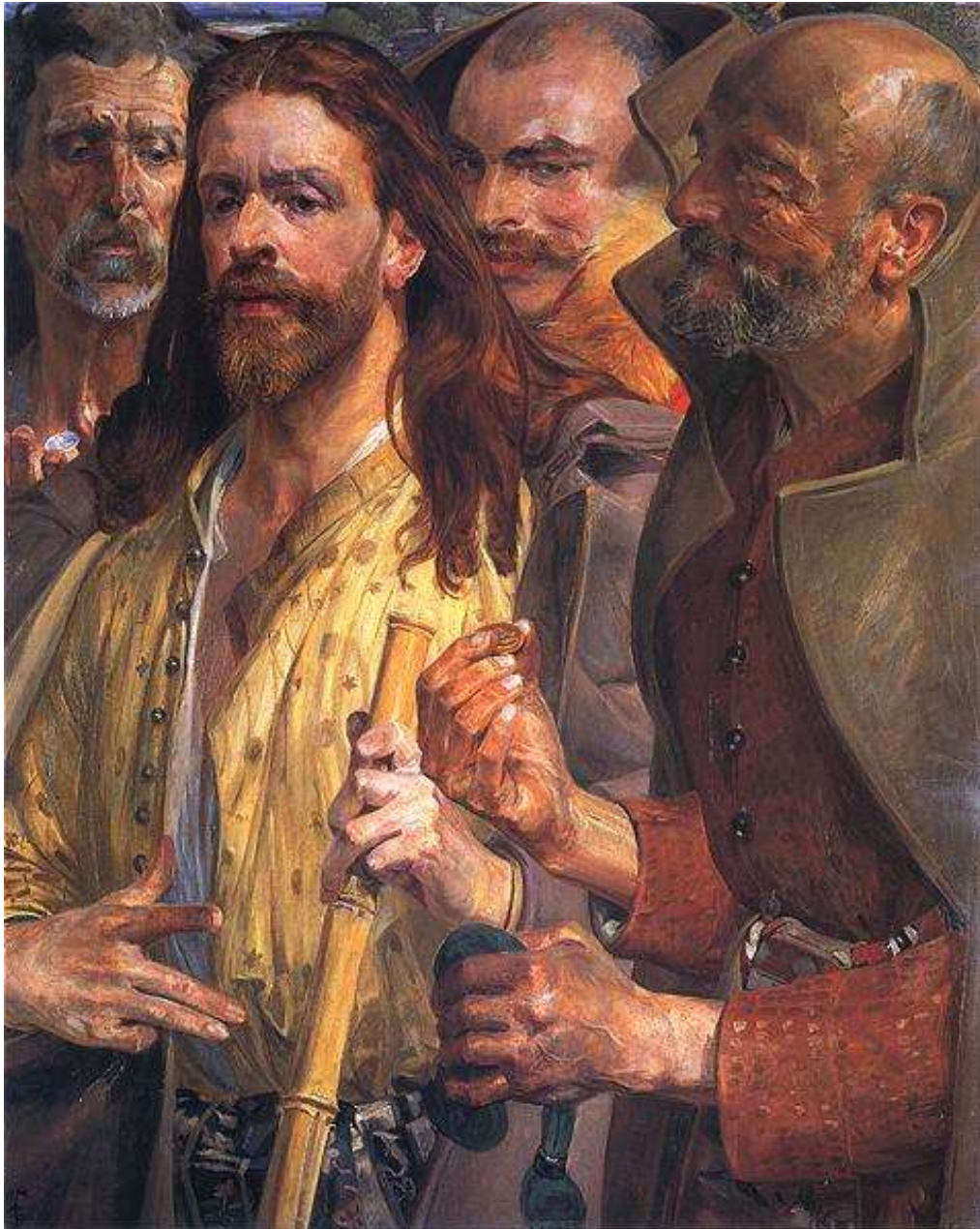
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-Soren Kierkegaard

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Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

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One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
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May justice and peace**

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Make your presence among us known.
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Amen.

*Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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.



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>



Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

A detailed painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop. He is seated at a desk, looking upwards with his hands raised. The room is filled with various instruments, including a large armillary sphere, a telescope, and books. The background shows a Gothic-style building with spires.

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Projekt „Jako Kobiety. Rozprawy. Wpływy i wartości” jest realizowany w ramach projektu „Kobiety w Polsce i na świecie” realizowanego przez Fundację Wobicki i Derkacz.

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

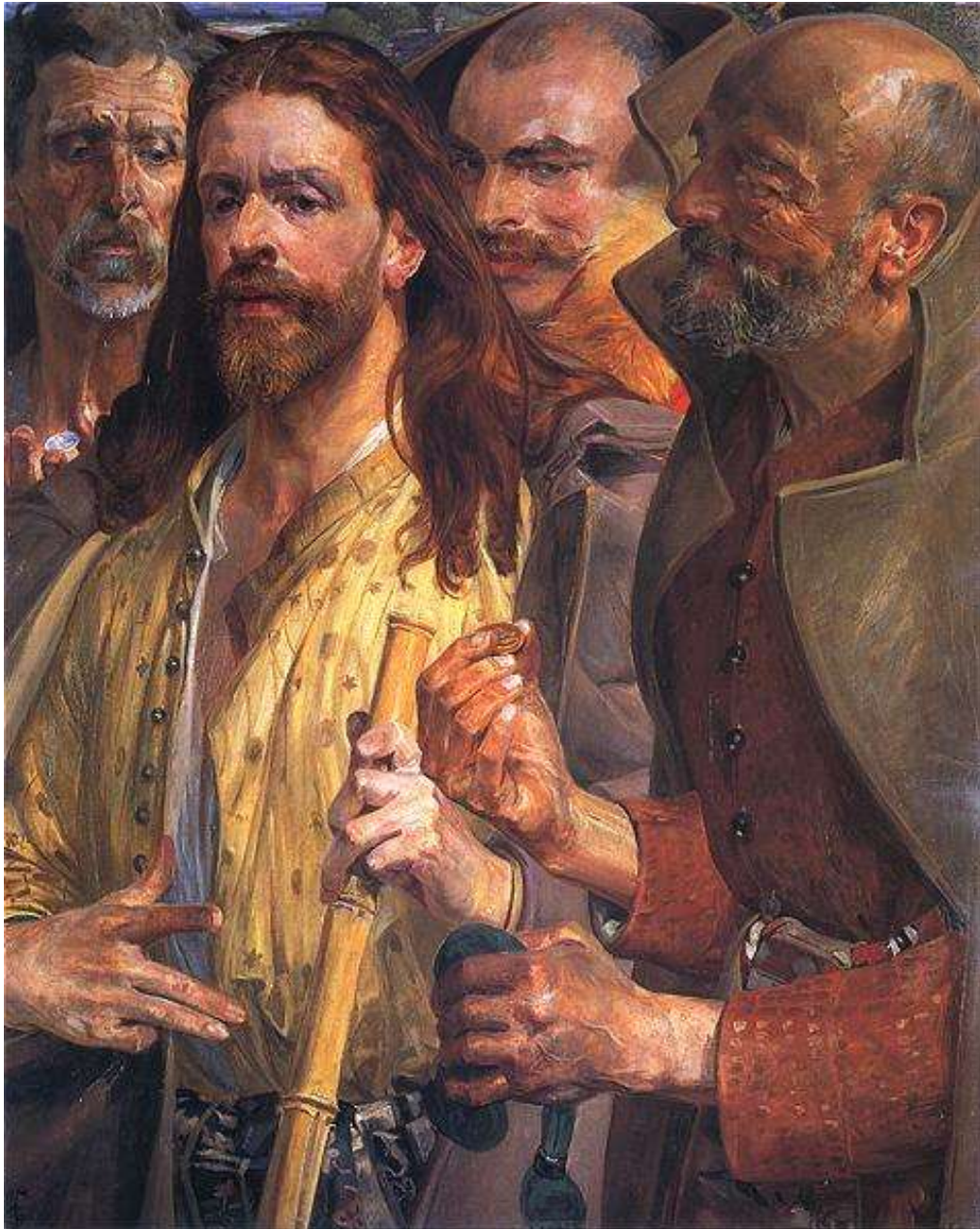
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

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**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

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**God is coming to rule the earth—
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and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

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2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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.



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital. The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, surrounded by astronomical instruments and books. The text is overlaid on the painting.

Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezydenta Miasta
w ramach budżetu Polonii i Polacy za Granicą 2023
Projekt „Jako Kobiety. Organizacja, Programy i inicjatywy edukacyjne”
w ramach „Kampanii społecznej „Kobiety w Polsce”

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

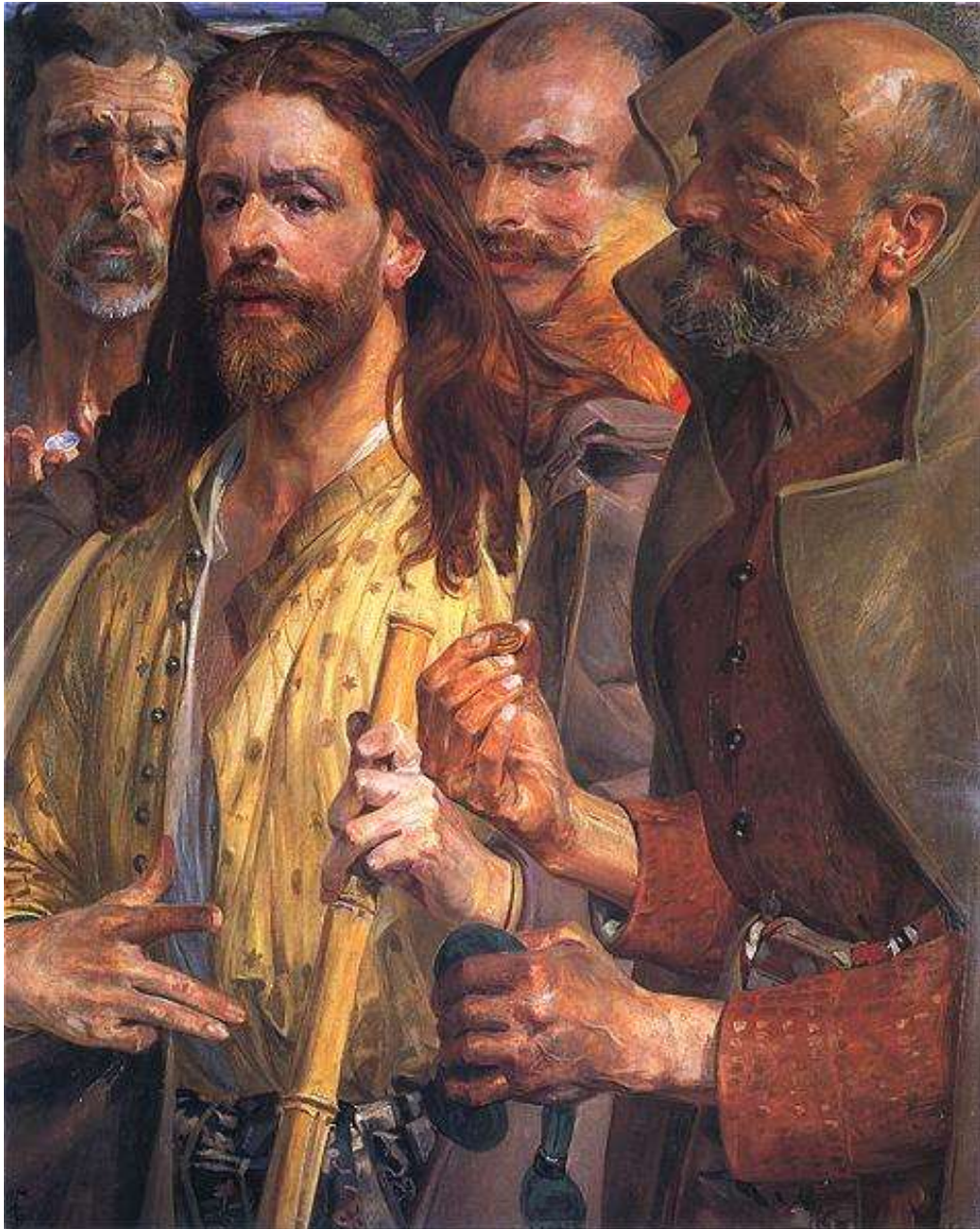
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital. The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, surrounded by astronomical instruments and books. The text is overlaid on the painting.

Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polityka na Obszar 2023)
Logo of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

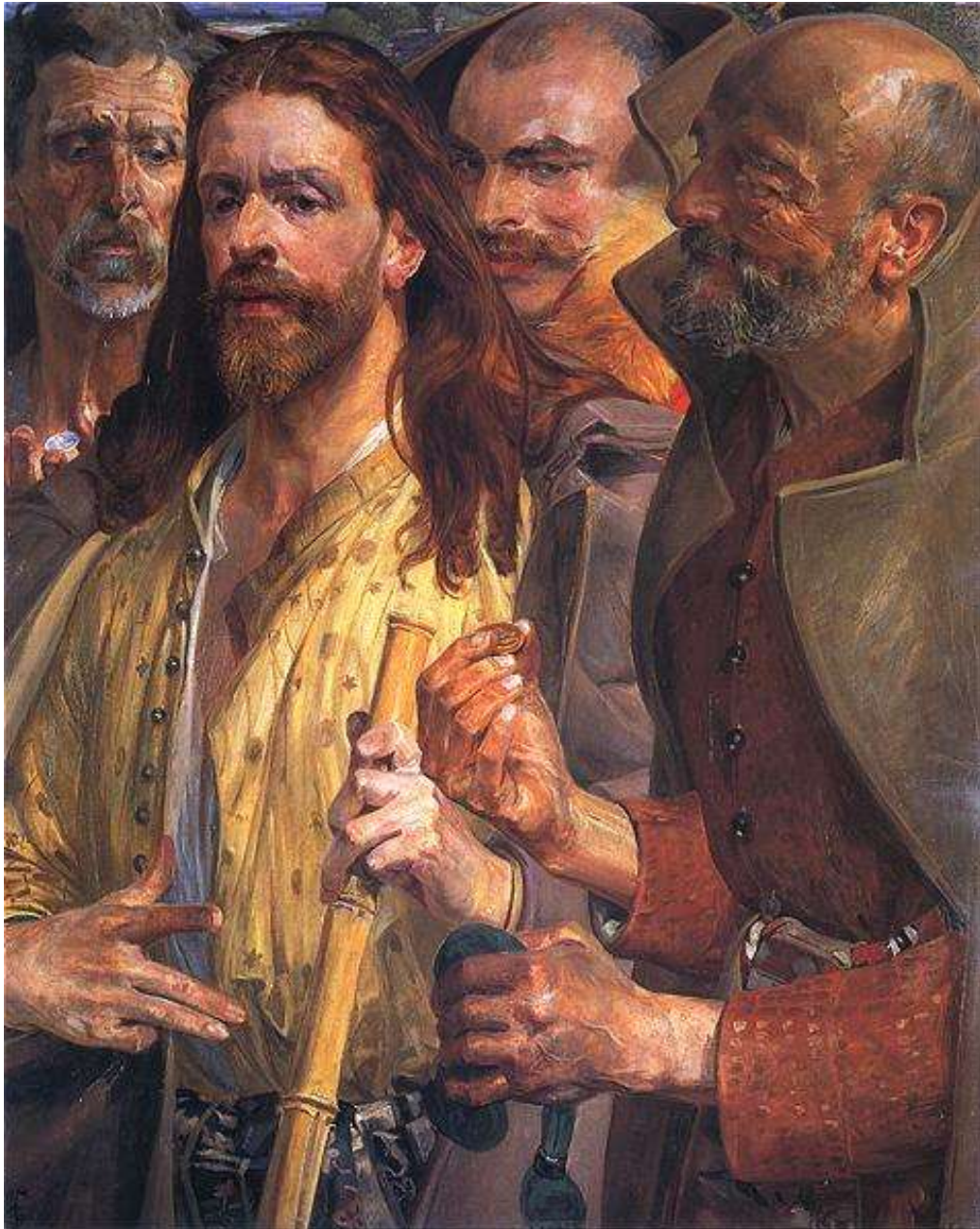
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

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Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall Schedule :

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Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

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Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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.

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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



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>



Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

A detailed painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop. He is seated, wearing a dark, fur-lined robe, with his hands raised in a gesture of explanation or discovery. The room is filled with various instruments, including a large armillary sphere, a telescope, and other astronomical tools. The background shows a Gothic-style building with a spire.

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Projekt „Jana Kocha. Repertorium. Wpływ na rozwój instrumentów
muzykalnych” realizowany przez Fundację Wolność i Demokracja

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

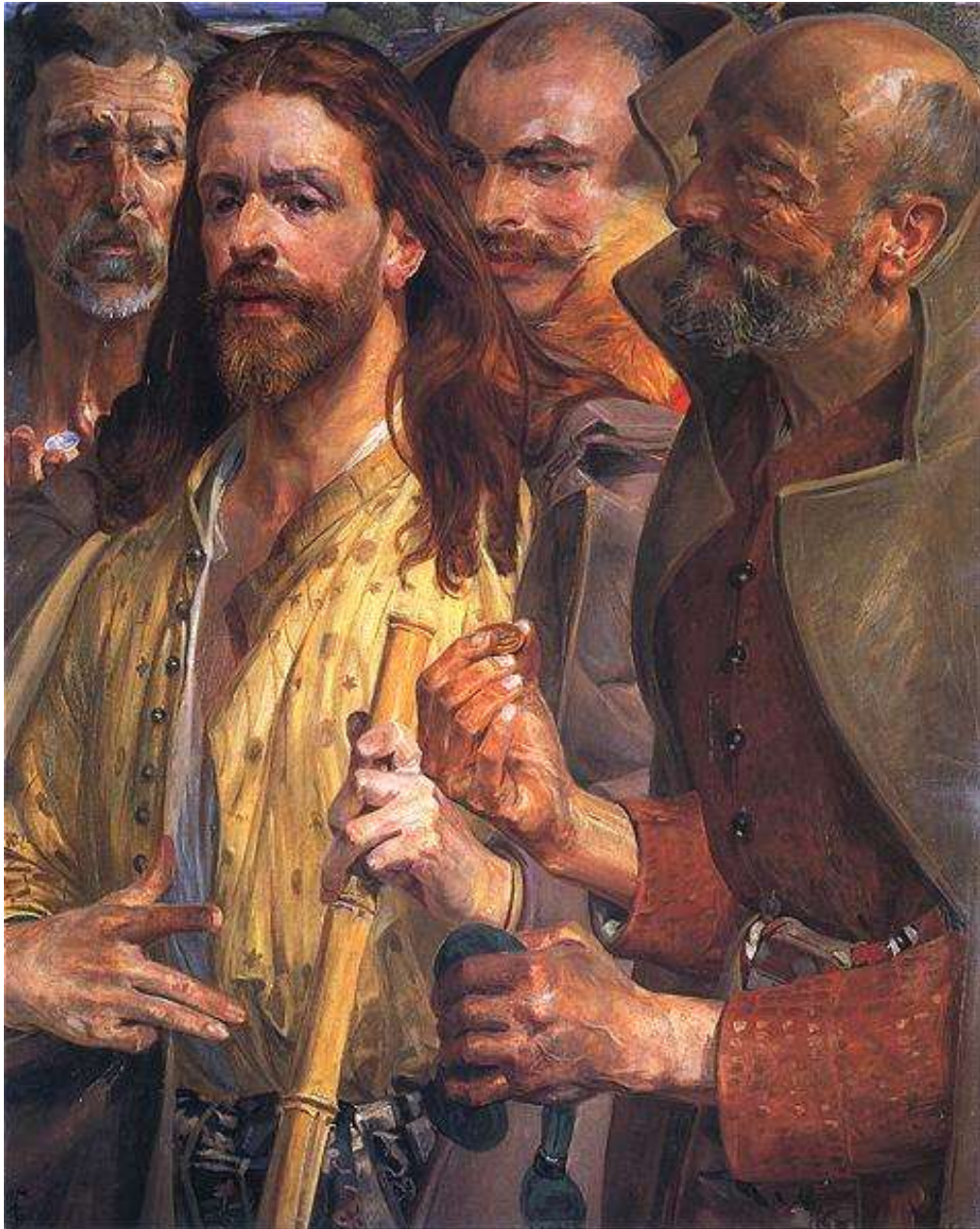
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

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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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>



Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

A detailed painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop. He is seated at a desk, looking upwards with his hands raised. The room is filled with various instruments, including a large armillary sphere, a telescope, and books. The background shows a Gothic-style building with spires.

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Projekt „Polski, dla Polski, Regionalny Program Operacyjny „Wzrost gospodarki i zatrudnienia”
w ramach „Modernizacja przez Funduszy Wzrost i Innowacje”

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

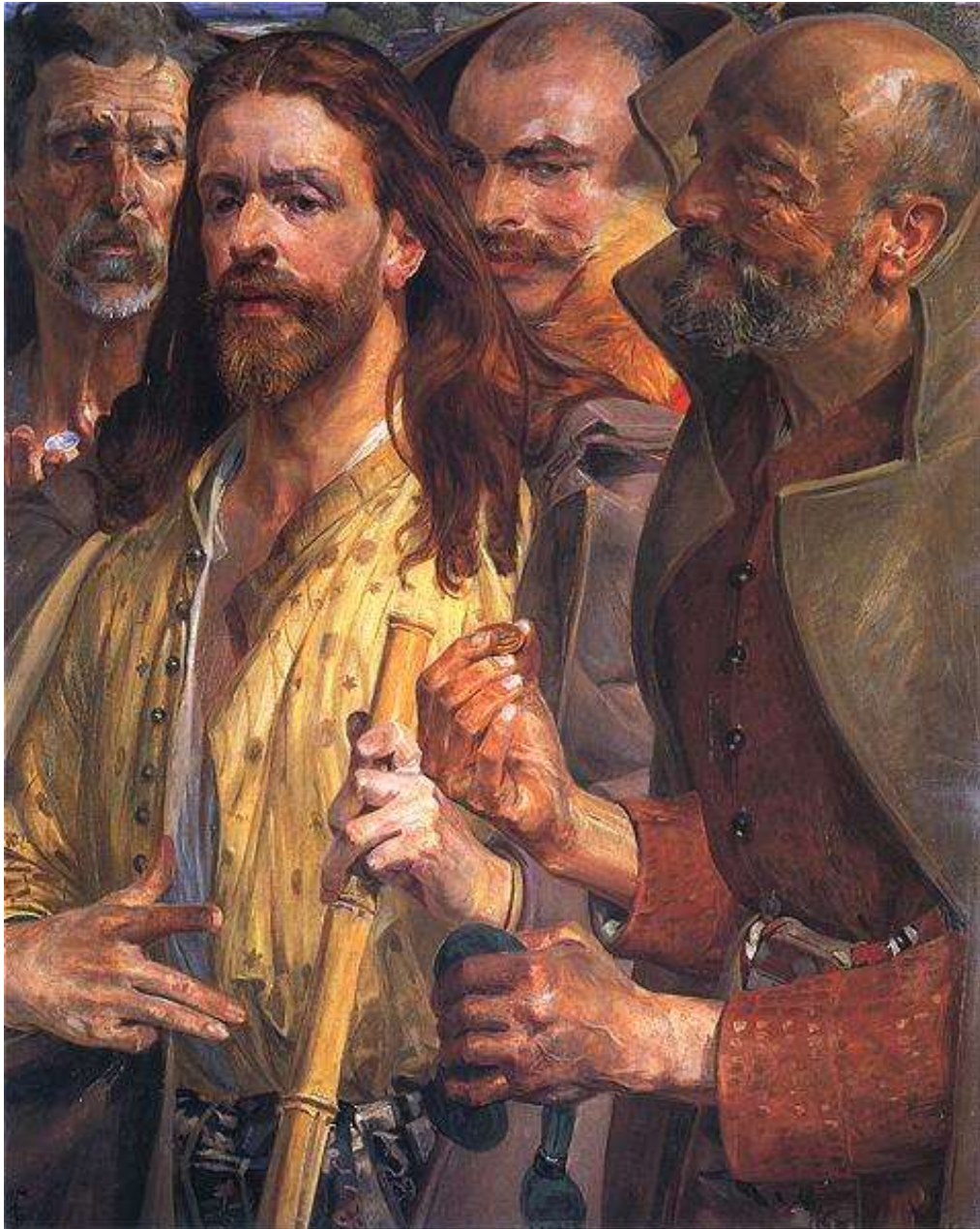
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

*Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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
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 people have died in Syria.
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- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the 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.
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 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
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 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>



Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

A detailed painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop. He is seated at a desk, looking upwards with his hands raised. The room is filled with various instruments, including a large circular diagram on the wall, a telescope, and several books. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the central figure and the instruments.

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.
Fall 2023

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral
733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church
2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church
2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

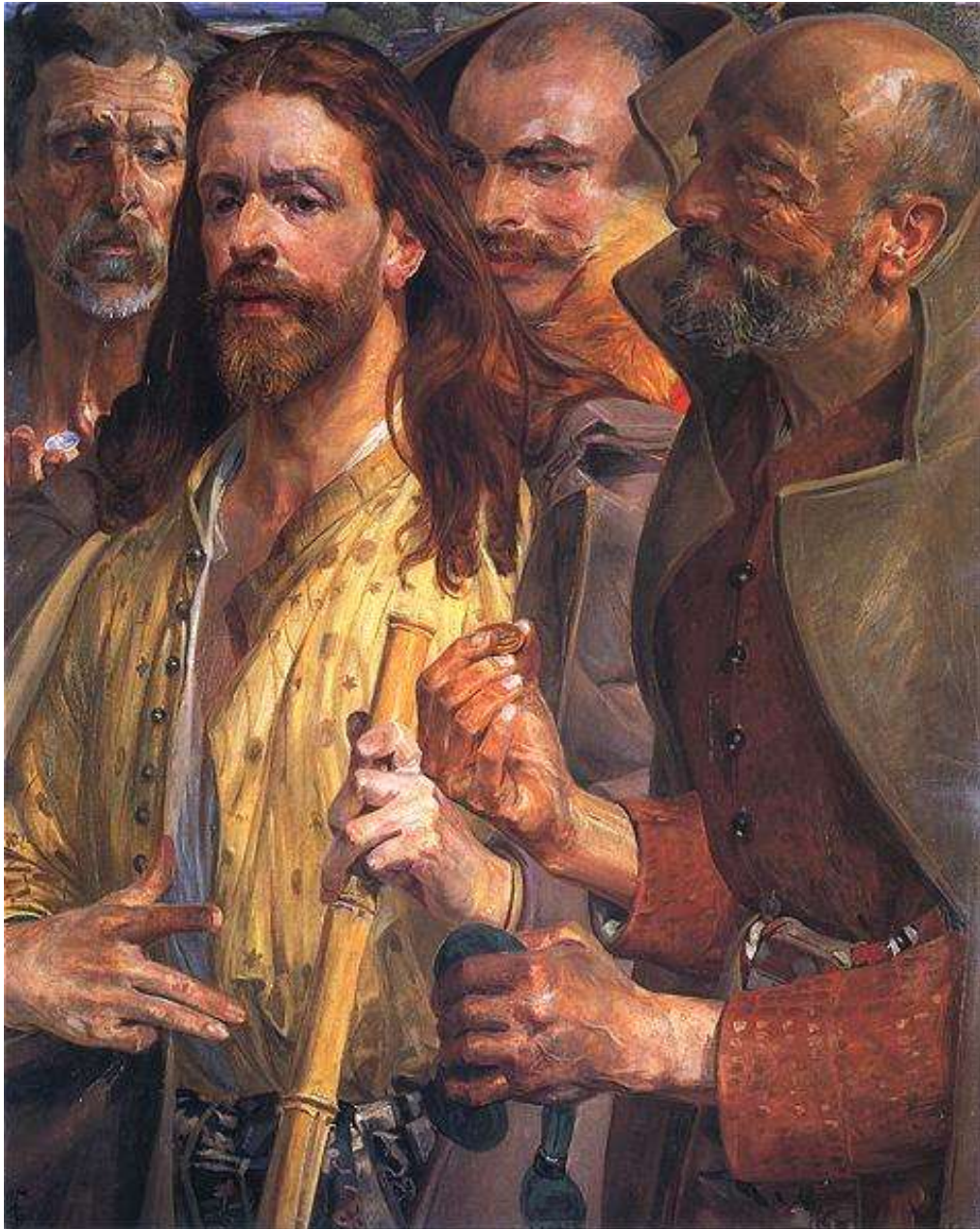
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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
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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
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The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital. The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, surrounded by astronomical instruments and books. The text is overlaid on the painting.

Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Projekt „Polski za Granicą” realizowany w ramach budżetu państwa w ramach
ogólnego „Mechanizmu płać Funduszy Wzrostu i Dobrej Głosy”

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

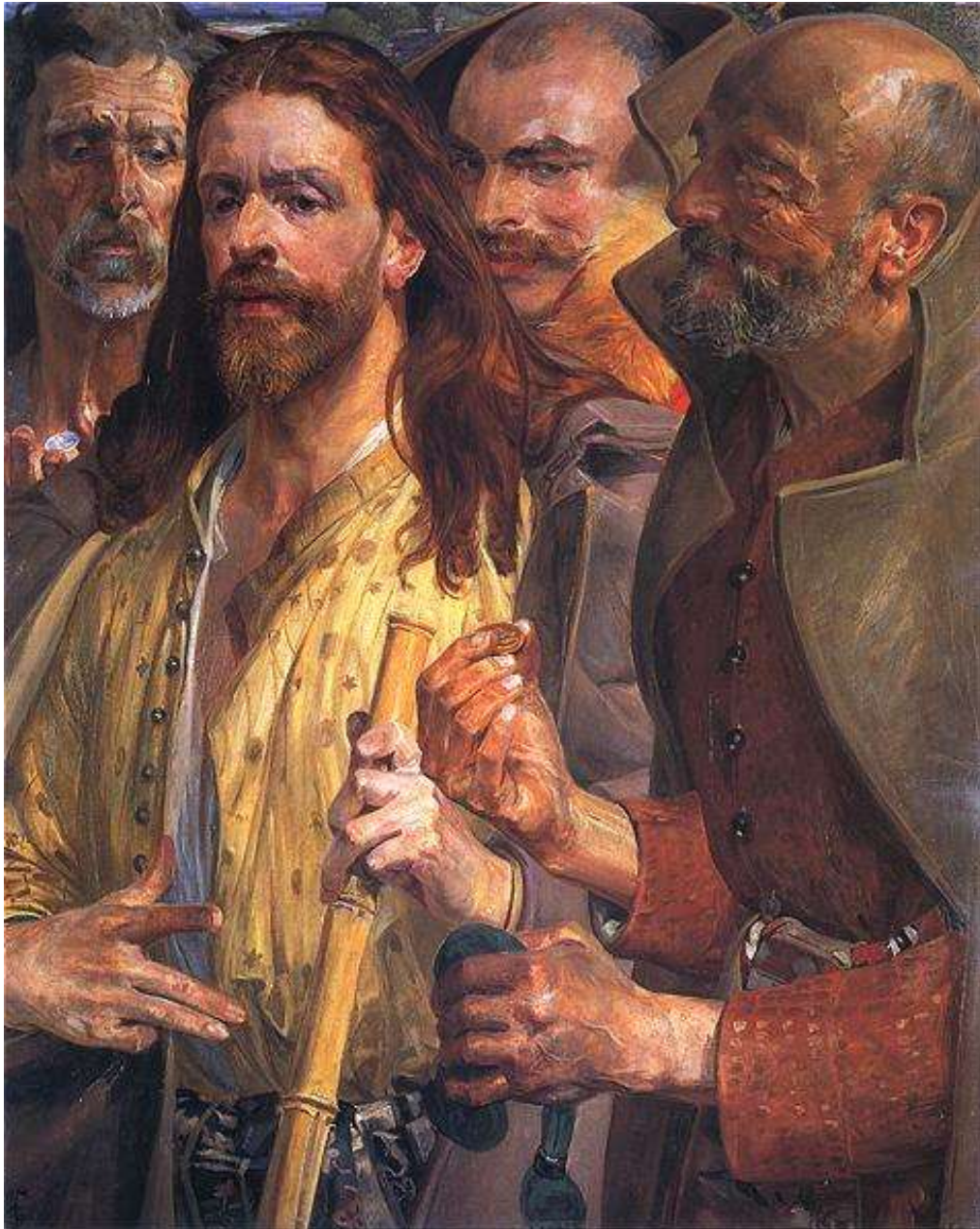
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
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“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

*Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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.



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital. The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, wearing a dark, fur-lined robe, with his hands raised in a gesture of explanation or discovery. He is surrounded by various scientific instruments, including a large circular diagram on a wall and a cross-shaped instrument. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm glow from a lamp on the left.

Polish Masters

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Featuring
Jiana Peng
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Works by
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Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polityka na Obszar 2023)
Logo of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

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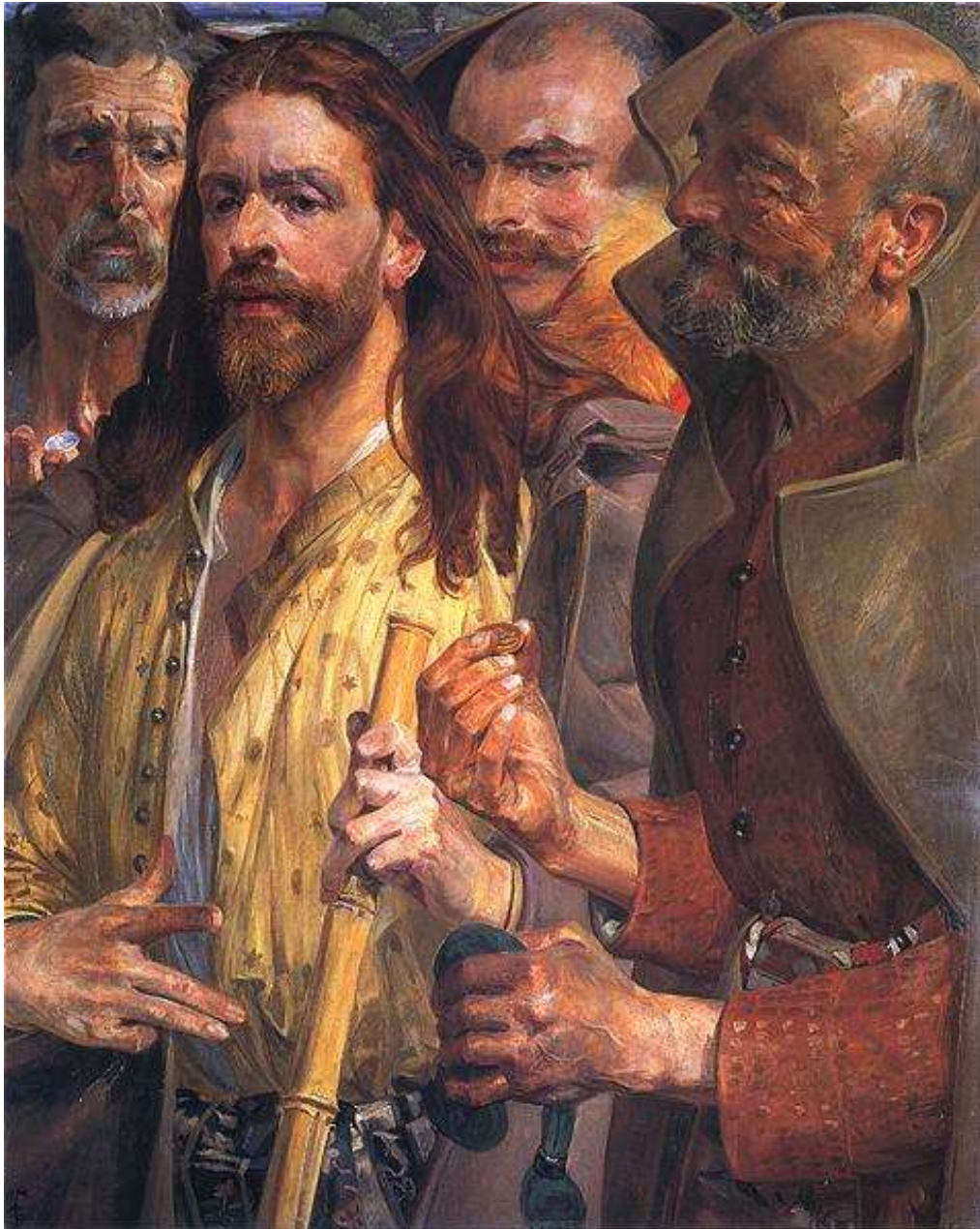
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One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

*Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>



Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

A detailed painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop. He is seated at a desk, looking upwards with his hands raised. The room is filled with various instruments, including a large circular diagram on the wall, a telescope, and several books. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the central figure and the instruments.

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

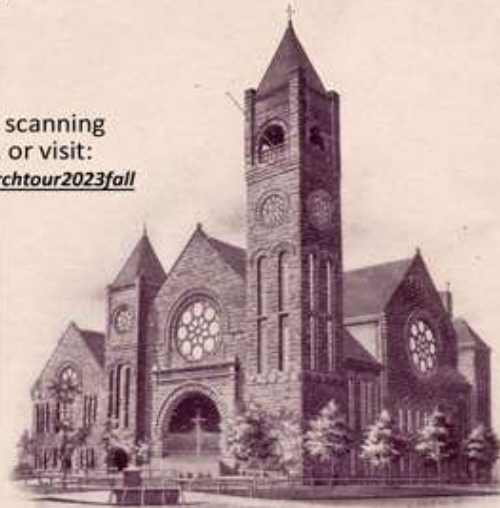
Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral
733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church
2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church
2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

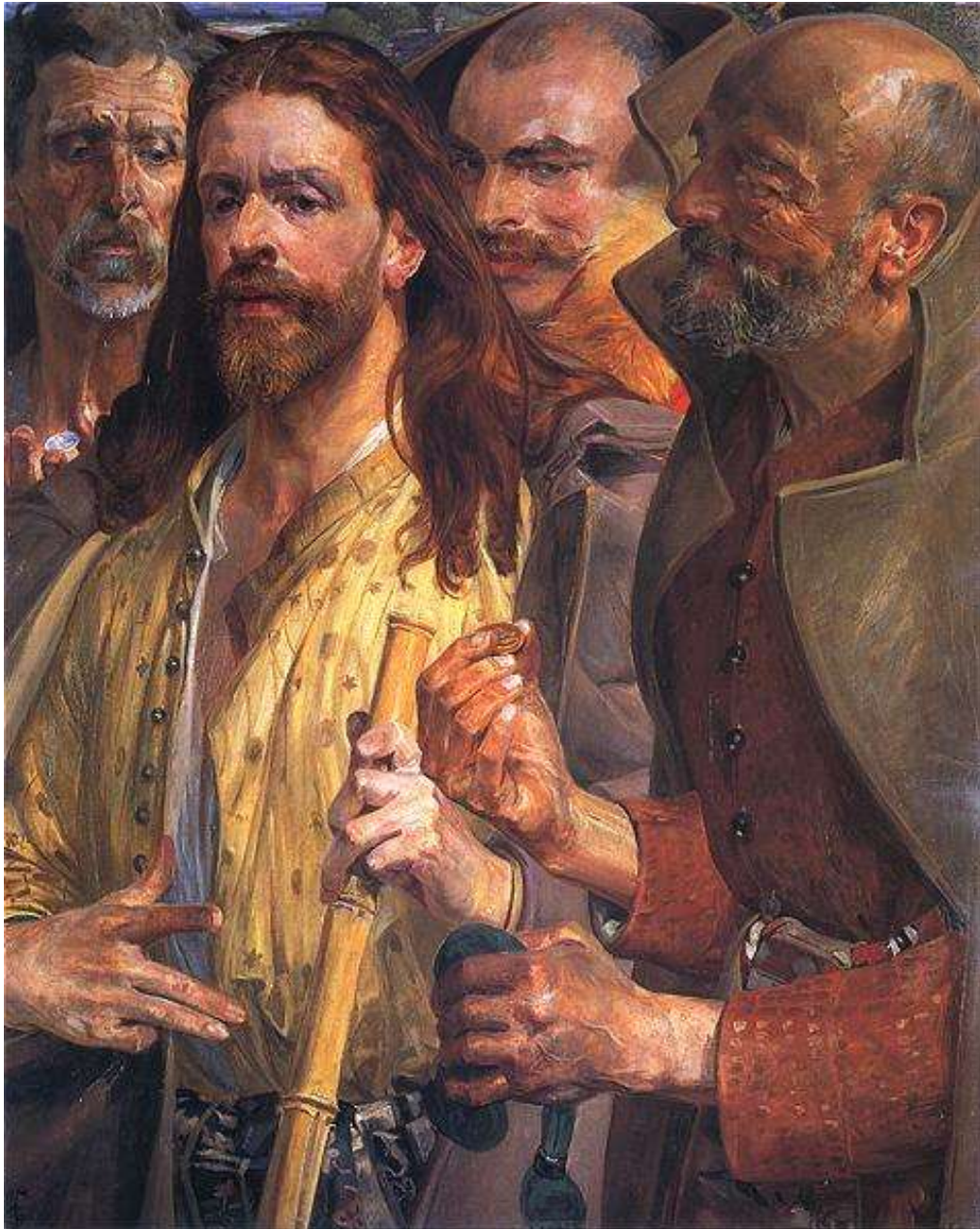
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

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Let repair, restoration,
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Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

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**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, Pastor

Adam Petrosino, 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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>



Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

A detailed painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop. He is seated, wearing a dark, fur-lined robe, with his hands raised in a gesture of explanation or discovery. The room is filled with various instruments, including a large armillary sphere, a telescope, and several books. The background shows a Gothic-style building with a spire. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting Copernicus and the instruments.

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

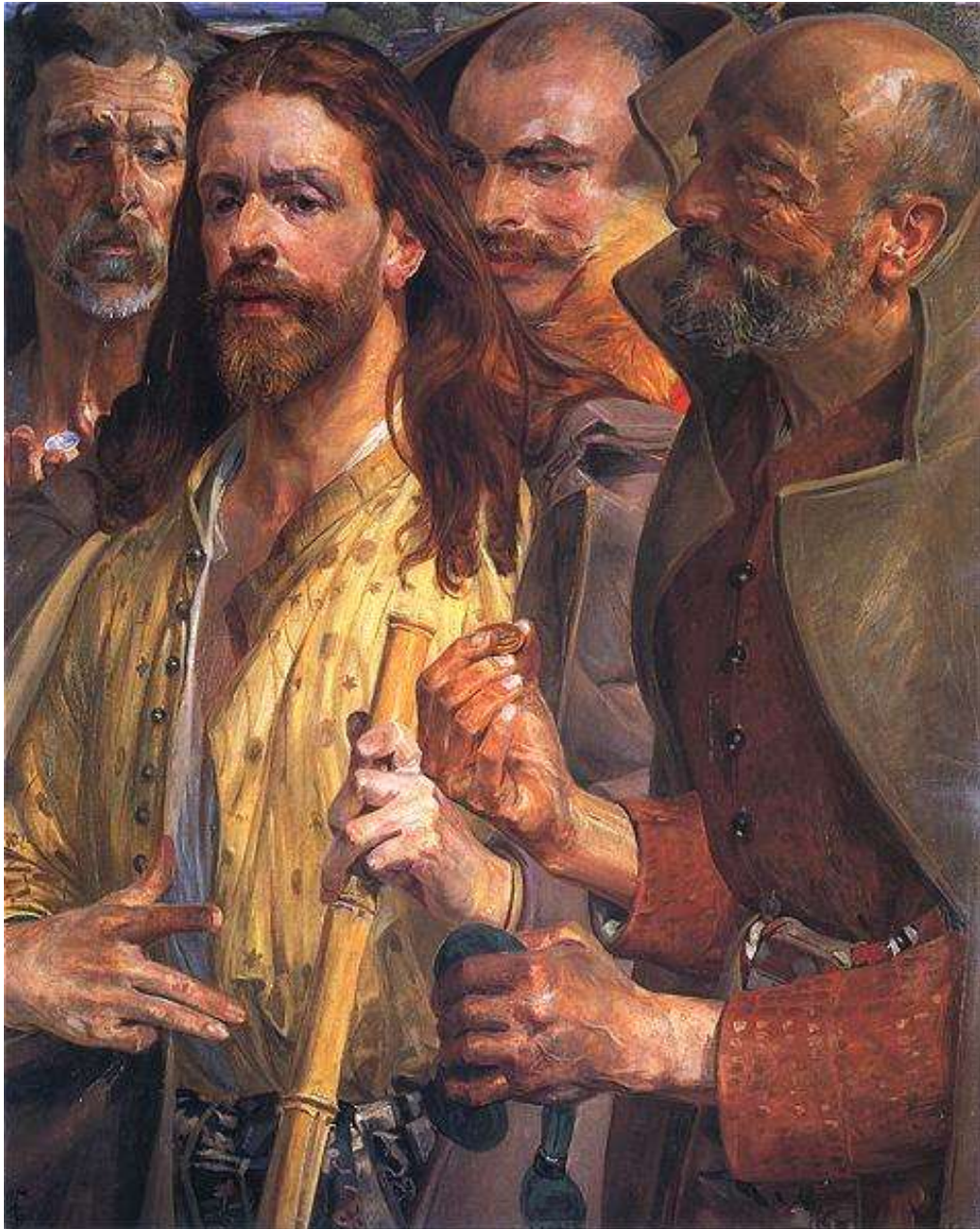
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

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21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*

Adam Petrosino, *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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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



A vertical pink poster for a donation fund. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large white letters. Below it, a blue banner contains the text "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund". A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. Below the URL, there is a paragraph of 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 with a small 'b' logo in the center. Below the QR code is an illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. At the bottom left, there is a small map of the Hawaiian Islands and the text "We are praying with Maui." At the bottom right, there is a logo for "HAWAII CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH" 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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>



Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

A detailed painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop. He is seated at a desk, looking upwards with his hands raised. The room is filled with various instruments, including a large armillary sphere, a telescope, and books. The background shows a Gothic-style building with spires.

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Logo of the Polish Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

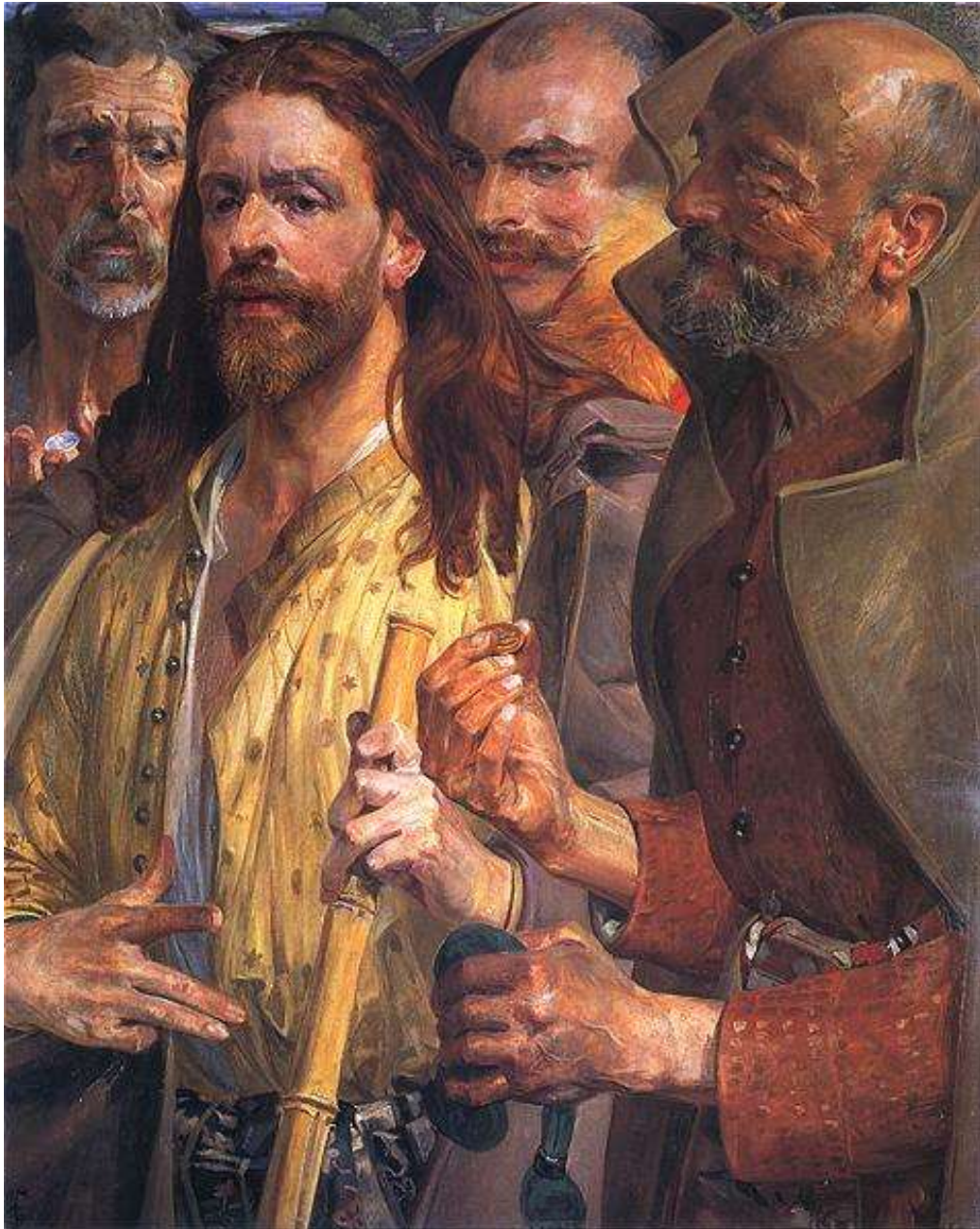
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
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Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*

Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*

Keith Konet, *Council President*

Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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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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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



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital. The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, surrounded by astronomical instruments and books. The text is overlaid on the painting.

Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Projekt „Polski za Granicą” realizowany w ramach budżetu państwa w ramach
ogólnego „Mechanizmu grantów Funduszy Wzrostu i Dobrej Gminy”

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

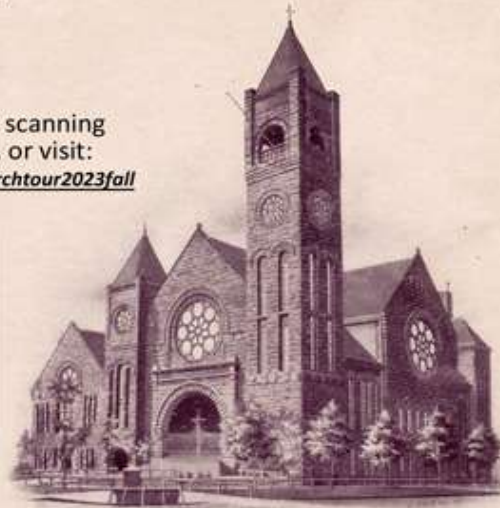
Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

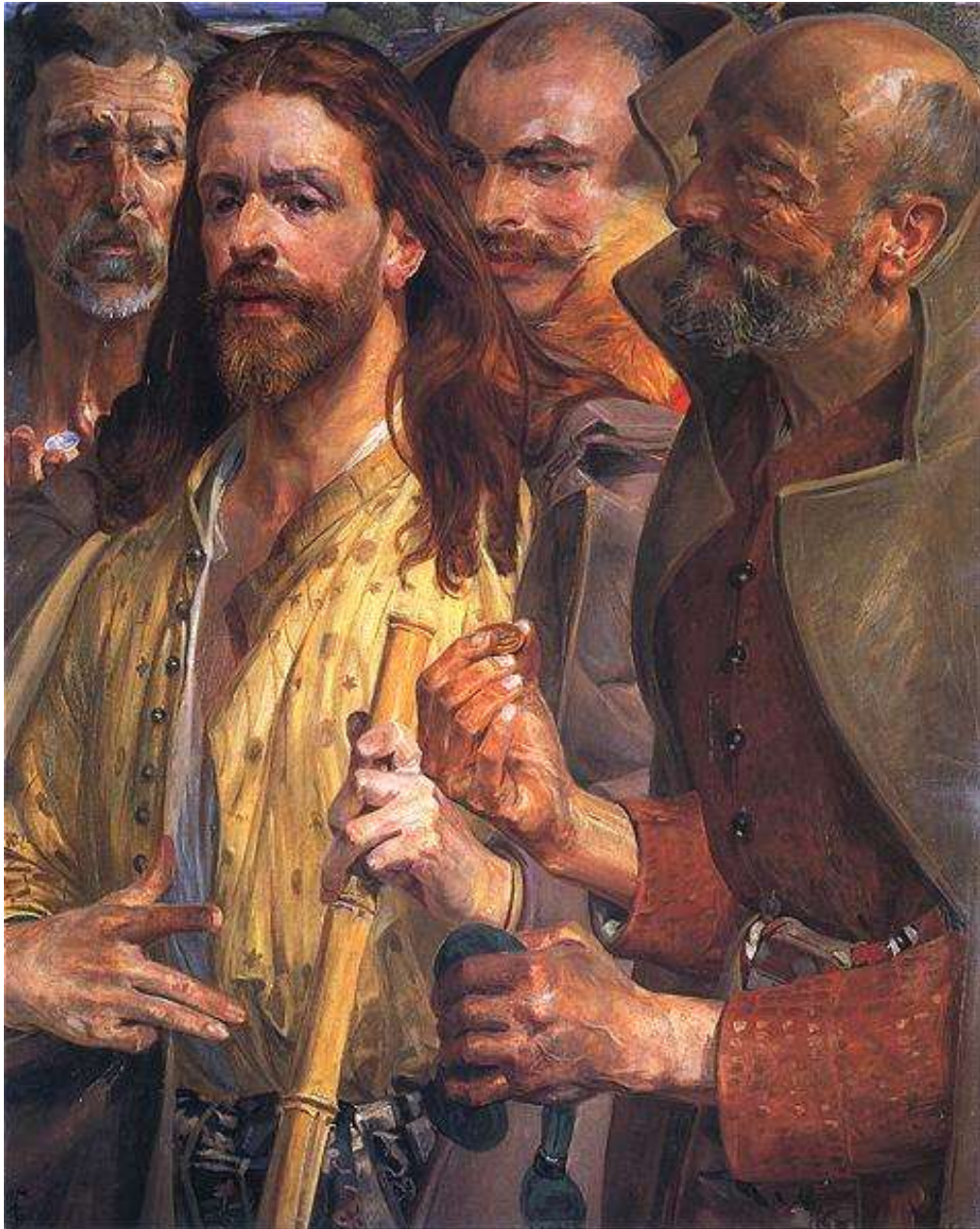
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

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Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- 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 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was 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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital titled "Polish Masters". The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, with a large sundial or astrolabe in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polski za Granicą 2023)
Projekt „Polski za Granicą” realizowany w ramach budżetu państwa w ramach
ogólnego „Mechanizmu grantów PAF-Instytut Wschodni” (Dobrostan)

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.

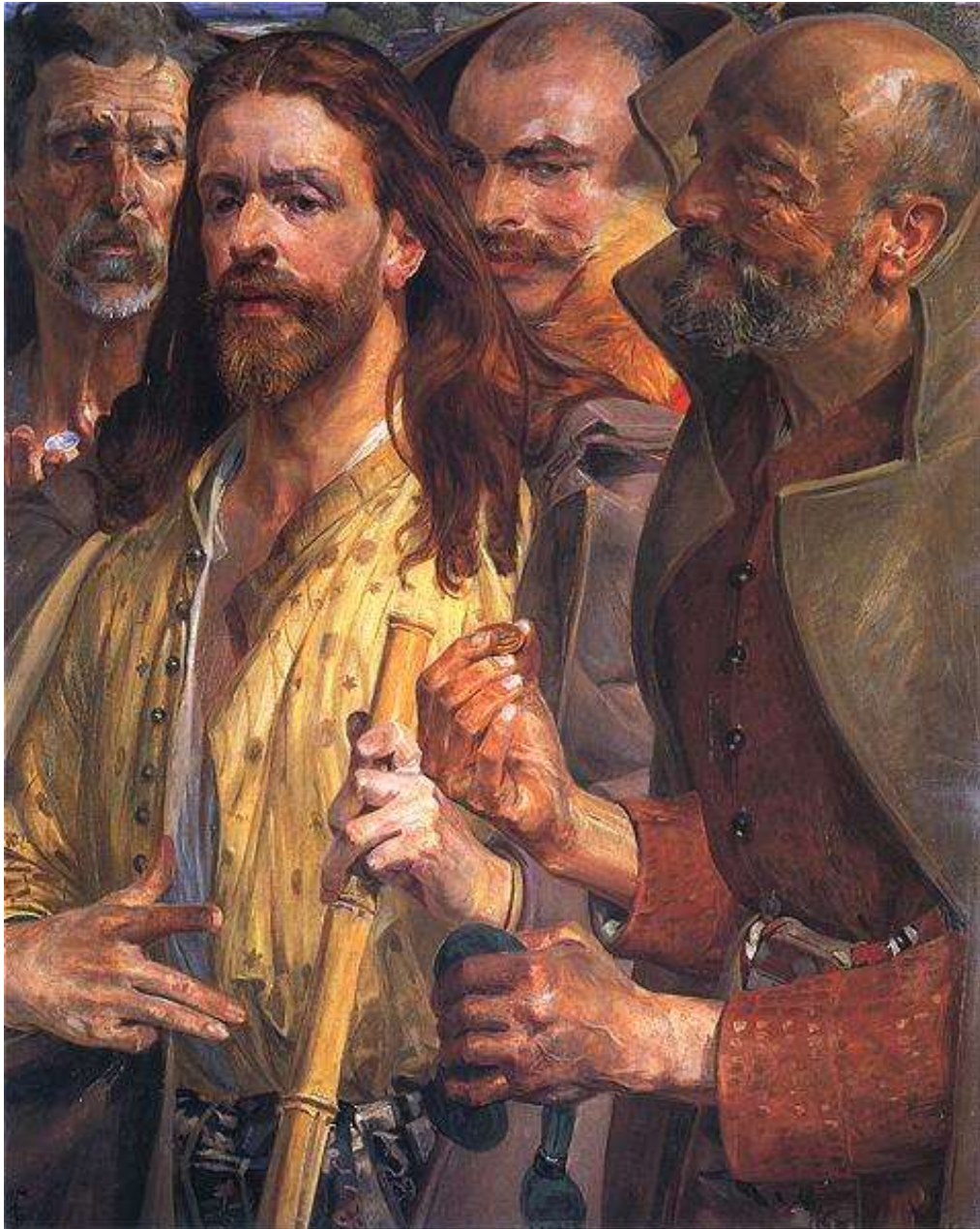
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29A)

A Service of the Word



The Tribute Money

by Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929)

National Museum, Poznan, Poland

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum,_Pozna%C5%84



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Ordinary 29-A
A Service of the Word

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)**

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of God.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: God is worthy to be praised!

***Invocation**

**Revealing God,
you show us the way of life,
lead us with love
and move us to compassion.
May our hearts be transformed
by your Spirit
and by your Truth.
Let our actions and attitudes
demonstrate your kindom.
May justice and peace**

be our hope.
Let repair, restoration,
and reconciliation
be our aim.
Make your presence among us known.
Let us prepare to receive it.
Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 1 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Hebrew scriptures reading turns to Isaiah 45. This portion of Second Isaiah speaks of Cyrus, the Persian emperor, who's coming into power made possible the return of the exiles from Babylon. However, Isaiah makes it clear through God's voice that it is God who has prepared the way, who had led Cyrus by the hand, and no other gods. It is God who directs the steps, who leads the people.

45 1 "Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
3 I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you may know that I am YHWH,
Israel's God, who calls you by name.
4 For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my
Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored
title,
even though you do not know me.
5 I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
6 that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.

7 I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create evil.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

Psalm Response: Psalm 96:1-13 (Responsively)

The verses of Psalm 96 form a call to worship praising God for all of God's wonderful deeds. God is not only above other gods, but all other gods are idols—only the same God of the faithful people made the heavens and earth. The psalmist gives liturgical instructions in calling the people to worship God and to bring their offering as they enter the courts of the temple, and all the earth shall tremble in response. In verses 10-13, the psalmist reminds the people that God is sovereign over all nations, and God judges with equity. The psalmist continues this great call to worship by calling all of creation to join in, for God will judge the people and the earth with truth and justice.

96 1 Sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all the earth!

2 Sing to God, bless God's Name!

Proclaim God's salvation day after day;

3 declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.

**4 God is great, most worthy of praise,
God is to be revered above all gods.**

5 the gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but God created the universe.

**6 In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**

7 Pay tribute to God, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.

**8 Pay tribute to the glorious Name of God;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.**

9 worship God, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

**10 say among the nations,
"God reigns supreme!"**

**The world stands firm and unshakable:
God will judge each nation with strict justice.**

11 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!

**12 Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

13 at the presence of God, for God is coming.

**God is coming to rule the earth—
to rule the world with justice
and its peoples with truth!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Epistle reading turns to its final series this season after Pentecost in 1 Thessalonians, which many scholars believe is one of the earliest letters of the apostle Paul (it may be the earliest we have in our Bible). We begin with the introduction, of Paul and his companions, Silvanus and Timothy, writing to the church in Thessalonica. Paul gives thanks for the church's faithfulness because they not only received the Gospel by word, but the Holy Spirit has been manifest in the church's reputation. In spite of being persecuted, they became an example to all believers in neighboring regions. Word has made it back to Paul that the Thessalonians turned from idols and have served God faithfully, while waiting for Jesus to return.

1 1 FROM PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY,

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

2 We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. 3 We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, laboring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

4 We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. 5 Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy Spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus—receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. 7 In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 The word of Christ has been resounding from you—and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. 9 They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, 10 and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel lesson takes a break from the parables of Jesus and turns instead to a time when some of those opposed to Jesus tried to trap him with a series of questions. In these verses of Matthew 22 some of the Pharisees got together with some of the Herodians—two groups that would normally be opposed—and asked Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not. If Jesus said no, the Herodians, the family of Herod that was in power as a puppet government under the Roman Empire, would have proof that Jesus was a political revolutionary. If Jesus said yes, it would make the crowds upset with him. Instead, Jesus offers another way, to give what belongs to the

Emperor and to give what belongs to God—recognizing that if everything comes from God, this question should not matter, for God is the ultimate authority.

22 15 Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. 16 They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. 17 Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”

18 Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, 20 Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied. At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection --“ Giving God What Is God’s” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

God of compassion and mercy, it is far too easy to give up, and even easier to fake it until we might make it.

Help us not hold on to false hopes, fake cheeriness, cheesy-Jesus-joy that makes other people sick to their stomach. Help us to find that true joy in you, that we are made by you for love in this world. Help us to trust in you so that we do not give up in the pursuit of justice, in the practice of mercy, in our love for one another.

We know in the end, only love has saved us, and only love will lead us forward.

Help us to love. Call us to love. Guide us in your ways of love, that also hold us accountable when we have gone wrong, to do the work of reparation and restoration in this world. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 476 - My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep From Singing)**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

Psalm 96:3 exhorts us to “Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” Let us glorify God through generous living and faithful use of the resources entrusted to our care. Let us marvel at the Creator’s provision by affirming that we have more than

enough to share for the benefit and care of our community, world, and God's church.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make your kingdom come and your will be done. Magnify their impact so that you may be glorified and your name be praised. 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 307 - Glorious Things of You are Spoken**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

**One: From this sanctuary of song and silence,
we will go to be with God's people.**

**All: We will carry hope to those who are fearful and worried;
we will share light with those in the shadows.**

One: From this time of healing and hearing,
we will go to share Jesus' justice.

**All: We will bring strength to those who falter;
we will walk with those weakened by the world.**

One: From the companionship of our sisters and brothers,
we will go with the Spirit into our neighborhoods.

**All: We will embrace those who are forgotten;
we will work to set free those who are oppressed. Amen.**

***Postlude - Adam Petrosino (**please be seated during the Postlude**)**

Worship ends at the last note of the postlude as it begins at the first note of the prelude.

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Truth: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ, October 22nd, 2023.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Sunday Worship Resources for October 22nd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, posted October 12th, 2023 on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from October 22nd, 2023 (Pentecost 21/Trinity 20/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted October 15th, 2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ministers, All of Us

Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*

Adam Petrosino, *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
2700 W. 14th Street, Ste. 14-S
Cleveland, OH. 44113**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall 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).

Worship Services on Zoom

We are discontinuing streaming worship services on Zoom at this time. The option for Worship Services via the Zoom platform will resume in the winter months and by request as needed.

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



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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.

- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.
- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 554 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 20th, 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 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*).
 - Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
 - Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (<https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/>) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <https://support.ucc.org/middleeast>

A poster for a piano recital. The background is a painting of Nicolaus Copernicus in a workshop, surrounded by astronomical instruments and books. The text is overlaid on the painting.

Polish Masters
A Piano Recital Honoring the 550th Anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' Birth

Featuring
Jiana Peng
Konrad Binienda

Works by
Chopin | Bacewicz
Maciejewski | Szymanowski

October 22, 2023, 4:00 PM
Harkness Chapel
11200 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106
Free Admission

Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów
w ramach budżetu Państwa (Polityka na Obszar 2023)
Logo of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Tremont History Project presents:
Historic Tremont Church Tour Series,
Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection
of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm:
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

733 Starkweather Ave.
Parking on site/on street

Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm:
Zion Church

2716 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm:
Pilgrim Church

2592 W. 14th Street
Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

2187 W. 14th Street
Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning
the QR code below, or visit:
www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information:
tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.