**Zion’s United Church of Christ**

**welcoming people,**

**uniting in worship,**

**receiving and sharing**

**the love of God.**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 21, 2024 – 10:15 a.m.**

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

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

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

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

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

One:   We gather to respond to the call of God’s love,

**People: Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.**One:   May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

**People: Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.**

One:   Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.  
**People: May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far to know the love of this divine presence.**

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Invocation (Responsive)**

Pastor: From deep within us we know of a loving presence.  
All around us we see glory, beauty, life and light.  
We have no words for what we experience so we cry out, “God!”.  
In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper,  
may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense.  
May we, gathered in this place, learn to pay more attention to God,  
who loves us at all times and in all places.

**People: God, of love and life, in this moment of prayer be more and more in us  
            that we might live more and more in you. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #611** *O Day of God, Draw Near*

*Please be seated.*

**Confession (Unison)**

**Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share  
here in this sacred space and among this loving community.  
But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here.  
We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.  
Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors,  
open our hearts to others; some like us, some not.  
We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness  
to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies  
for fear they just might become friends. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)**

The one who calls us to this place  
calls us to reconciliation through grace.  
God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit.  
Know that you are forgiven  
and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God’s love.  Amen.

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Gloria #759**

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

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

*world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*Peace of Christ**

*Please be seated.*

**Message for Youth**

**Handbell Choir Anthem** *This Is My Father’s World*Michael Helman

**Scripture:**   Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 (reader: Bambi Eschbach);

I Corinthians 7: 29-31 (Bambi);

Mark 1: 14-20

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

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

**Sermon:   “Follow Me” (Pastor Kris)**

*All who are able may stand.*

**\*Hymn #14** *How Can I Say Thanks*

**\*Apostles’ Creed #881**

*Please be seated.*

**Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord’s Prayer (Unison)**

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

**Prayer Response #769**

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

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

**Offering Invitation (Pastor)**

Gestures of gratitude are a demonstration  
that a blessing or benefit has been received.  
We heard a call, dropped our nets and came to this place to find new life.  
The gifts we give today are but tokens of the blessings of the new life we live in Christ.  
Bring your gifts with joy for they remind us of  
just how blessed we are to know this love  
that flows so generously from the spirit of God.

**Offertory**

*All who are able may stand.*

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

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host:*

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

**\*Dedication (Unison)**

**May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace,  
be a blessing to friends and strangers,  
those like us and those not,  
those deserving and those not,  
for in this way the love of God reaches all of God’s beloved.**

**\*Hymn #577** *God the Omnipotent!*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**

Now may the One who is faithful to all  
be with us all as we depart this blessed place.  
May we be a blessing to every place we go,  
until we gather again. Amen.

**Postlude**

Acknowledgments - Reluctant Evangelists: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany, was written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, CA and a member of the board of directors of ProgressiveChristianity.org.

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

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

**Financial Secretary** – Louise Griffiths; **Assisting –** Diane Andres

**Usher:** Jim Miller

**Those serving next week: Altar Guild:** Julie Rhoads

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

**Usher:** Craig Strunk

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – January 21, 2024**

**Altar flowers** presented by Betty Leister in memory of loved ones.

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

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

**Wednesday, January 24 –** Wednesday Crew

Quilters

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

Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**\*\*\*Bible Study in January**

Wednesday, January 24 at Zion’s, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Friday, January 26 –** Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Here is a suggested list of donations:

—Knit hat

---Neck Noodle

—Hand lotion/chap stick

—mouth wash

—Prayer shawl/ lap blanket

—diamond painted angel keychain

—a CareNote (or similar) booklet

—word puzzle book

—notepad and pencil

**Zion’s United Church of Christ**

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

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

***Everything Possible* by Fred Small**

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

**Keith Clattenburg – Organist/Choir director**

**Laura Clattenburg – Music Coordinator**

**Kimberly Kulesa – Office Administrator**

**Frank Moser - Custodian**