



“Power to Do”

Zion United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 28, 2024

*Stand in body or spirit.

*(Join in speaking aloud the **bolded** portions.)*

Prelude

Coming Together to Share the Light

Greeting & Proclamation

"You know that you are growing closer to understanding God when you realize that the demons who were pursuing you were angels all along."

Meister Eckhart von Hochheim, 14th Century

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Sunday Celebration (*Psalm 111, adapted*)

By this I have known the presence of the Almighty:

in the rising of the sun, in the smile of another's face,

in the touch of a hand or the sound of a laugh,

in the scent of a flower holding the promise of spring.

By this I have known the power of the Lord:

in the healing of hurts, in the forgiveness of sin,

in the giving of gifts beyond all expectation,

in the shower of love that comes from God's Son.

Let us give thanks to the Almighty with all of

our heart!

**Let us worship our God, whose presence
and power endures forever!**

Morning Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

*(All are invited to use whatever language
and wording is most comfortable.)*

**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 sins/debts/trespasses*, as we
forgive *our debtors/those who sin/trespass
against us*. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. AMEN.**

Celebration of Baptism for Christina Grace Bird-Walker

***Zion's Covenant**

Christina, you are a gift from God. We
celebrate your baptism and welcome you into
this family of faith as our sister in Christ. We
promise to support you as you grow in
wisdom and understanding, and to encourage
you as you explore your faith. We offer you
our prayers, our witness, and our love.

***Hymn of Worship # 339**

"Just as I am, Without One Plea"

Prayer for Our Humanity

...when we know in our hearts that you are the author of life.

Forgive us, we pray. As we confess our sins, in thought, word or deed, may your redemptive presence flood our lives that we may praise your name forevermore. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.

Silence for Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

... receive the blessing that God offers us all!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! AMEN.

Message in Music

First Scripture Lesson Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalter Lesson # 462 "God's Covenant"

***Gospel Lesson** Mark 1:21-29

Meditation Pastor Craig

***Hymn of Reflection # 542**

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Invitation to Joyful Giving

Offertory

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.*

***Sung Prayer of Dedication** (sung to tune above)

*Oh, Christ you came to bring us light;
to shine throughout the darkest night.
We bring these gifts of love to share;*

as light for those who need Your care. Amen.

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

A Prayer for Sunday

***Closing Hymn # 432**

"O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life"

Benediction

Bring Light out into the World

Postlude

We Focus on Our Life Together...

Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. No matter who or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Please join us downstairs in The Gathering Place for refreshments and fellowship after the service.

Today's Bulletin is dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of the birthday of Elaine Roberts by loving family.

Leader: Pastor Craig Sparks

Musicians: Thaddeus Paulhamus & Clinton Adams

Message in Music: Zion UCC Choir

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Bryan Barbalace, Kevin Barbalace, Charlene Berk, June Bocek*#, Les & Vivian Bowser, Les Bowser Jr, Casey Brewer, family of Kevin Collins, Shirley Dalgo, Anna Denoe*#, Joan Edwards*, Anna Golden, Kim Grimes, Marie Kachinski, Henry & Gerri Krotee, Barbara Langenfelder*, John Langenfelder, Barbara Makin, Henrietta Loveland, Joyce Murphy, Mary

Murphy, Rev. Hugh Nash#, Gloria Nethkin, Betty Nolte*#, Judith Panian*#, John Pflugrad & family, Joann Ringsdorf, Shirley Ritter*, Carol Rubright, Doris Wengler, Nancy Zaharis, service men & women, Ukraine, Peace on Earth.

Weather Related Closing Information...

In the event of inclement weather, Zion UCC follows Baltimore County Public School policy regarding the use of the church hall for all regularly scheduled meetings, programs, and member hall rentals. In the event of inclement weather that necessitates cancelling Sunday morning worship, an announcement will be placed on our website (www.zionuccmd.com), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/zionuccmd), and on the church voicemail at (410) 687-0980. Weather related closings will also appear on WBAL-TV11 and the WBAL App.

Looking ahead at Zion...

- 29:** Busy Hands Crafters (10 am) Upper Hall
Turner Seniors (11 am) Lower Hall
Merger Committee (7 pm) Gathering Place
- 30:** Bible Study (6 pm) Gathering Place
Choir Rehearsal (7 pm) Sanctuary
N.A. "Stronger Ties" (7 pm) Lower Hall
- 31:** N.A. "Sink or Swim" (7 pm) Lower Hall
- 4:** Sunday Worship (10 am) Pastor Craig

Looking ahead to Lent...

Ash Wednesday (2/14) ... all are invited to drop-in at the church for a brief imposition of Ashes at

3:00 pm. Later that evening, our traditional Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

"Soup Supper & Vespers" (Wednesdays)... will begin with supper in the Gathering Place at 6:30 pm and end with a Lenten vespers service in the Sanctuary.

UCC MISSION MOMENT
Mark 1:21-28 Power to Do
Health and Human Service Sunday

In the story today, Jesus casts out an unclean spirit in the temple. As he gazes with love on the broken person in front of him, Jesus thinks only of how that person could be healed. He is not concerned about distracting others from the way things "should be" or making a mess in that holy space. Jesus only lovingly wants to act in ways that bring wholeness where there is brokenness, health where there is illness, community where there is isolation.

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday when we honor the work of the United Church of Christ's The Council for Health and Human Service Ministry (CHHSM).

Last year CHHSM's annual meeting was held in Denver, which gave Archway Homes a chance to showcase the work they have been doing in Colorado for fifty years.

"Since its founding in 1974, Archway Communities, initially established as Mountain United Church

Housing, became Rocky Mountain HDC in 1995 and is now Archway Communities, has remained steadfast to its commitment to provide service-enriched affordable housing for very low-to-moderate income families in the Denver Metro region and Colorado Springs.

With 8 properties in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs (and two more in development!), we have been developing affordable housing communities, expertly managing properties, and providing essential supportive services to individuals and families for almost 50 years.

By integrating housing and supportive services, Archway Communities is helping 1,516 residents improve economically and socially. We are a faith-based non-profit that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Archway wishes to create communities of dignity and respect for families, neighbors, and staff.

Creating community requires a commitment to seeing the humanity and interconnectedness of all that we do.

It requires a willingness to step up with courage and decency, to do the hard tasks, and the ability to celebrate each triumph joyfully."

Find out more at Archway's website:

<https://www.archwaycommunities.org/mission/>.

What are the health and human service organizations in your area? How can you celebrate and support them?

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* Press 1 to leave voicemail message

* Press 2 for Pastoral Services

* Press 3 to contact Council President

* Press 4 to contact Cemetery

* Press 6 to contact Congregational Care

Pastor Craig will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The phone and email continue to be monitored, and all incoming mail is processed daily. For your convenience, you may leave envelopes or correspondence in the locked mailbox on the office porch. Messengers, Bulletins, and Upper Room Devotionals are also available.

If you require pastoral services, please call the church office, and press #2; email to *pastor@zionuccmd.com* or call Pastor Craig directly at 443-896-6815.

Zion United Church of Christ

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