

Zion United Methodist Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let's sing unto the Lord a hymn of glad rejoicing.

P: Let's sing a hymn of love, at the new day's fresh beginning.

L: God made the sky above, the stars, the sun, the oceans and saw it was good.

**P: Sing unto the Lord a hymn of adoration, showing our love, faith, and hope!
Alleluia!**

† HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

UMH #327

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, we know that we offend one another, we offend you. We are aware that we have often allowed the shadow of hate to cloud our souls, hiding the light from our unseeking eyes. We have said unpleasant and hurtful things to our brothers and sisters when they failed to live up to our expectations. Grant that we might find that spark of love that ever burns within us, the love that you have shown to us even when we failed you. Fan the embers of that love until it roars again in flames of love, peace, and reconciliation. Forgive us of our sins and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us, as we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 14:26-31

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers."

²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

CHILDREN'S TIME

† HYMN

Majesty, Worship His Majesty

UMH #176

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

MESSAGE

"It's Never Ending"

Rev. David Magruder

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation

UMH #885

GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

† HYMN

Freely, Freely

UMH #389

† BENEDICTION



A large, teal infinity symbol is centered on a background of crumpled paper with horizontal teal lines. Below the symbol, the text 'How Many Times?' is written in a white, serif font on an orange brushstroke background. Underneath that, the text 'The Journey Begins Worship Series' is written in a smaller, white, italicized serif font.

How Many Times?

The Journey Begins Worship Series