

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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(*)Please stand either in body or in spirit

Third Sunday Of Easter

Mother's Day

May 11, 2025

Revelation 7:9–17

"Revelation offers an ideal picture of the church that we can work to become today."

Gathering Music: "O Praise The Name"

Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements:

Liturgist: Tom Rash

(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: "Let All things Their Creator Bless"

The Prelude calls us together. It is a time of quiet reflection to focus ourselves in preparation for worshipping God.

The Light appears:

The Acolytes serve

The Church Bell rings:

*The Call to Praise:

Liturgist

Transformative Creator, you envelope us with examples of Community.

We are witness to Jesus' up close and personal attempts to learn about and be with the people.

You want us to know that what happens outside of our church building matters to God's people.

Continue to work in and through us to build towards collective flourishing.

Call us into living—

Call us into being curious, approachable, and loving towards all Your creation.

*The Hymn of Praise: “Now Thank We All Our God” No. 556

*Invocation:	Liturgist
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*Passing the Peace of Christ: Liturgist

Please pass the peace through our words and through our actions in a world that desperately needs to see the results of following the Prince of Peace.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

* Prayer for Transformation and New Life: Rev. Kahler

Holy One, we ask ourselves: Who do we say that we are? How do we show up against leaders that allows discrimination, war, genocide, violence, and poverty run rampant amongst God's people. When we experience tension, give us the courage to feel into that tension and to invite a feeling of love and kindness and grace the way that Your Son showed us time and time again. Be with us in this and all the hard moments still to come. Amen.

Words of Grace: Rev. Kahler

The Scripture Reading: Acts 9: 36-43 Liturgist
Pew Bible, pg. 956

The Choir Anthem: “My Savior Leadeth Me” The Chancel Choir

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Prayer Response:

The Chancel Choir

Scripture Meditation:

Rev. Kahler

The Sermon Scripture:

Revelation 7: 9-17

Rev. Kahler
Pew Bible, pg. 1076

*The Sermon Hymn: "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

No.462

Sermon:

"A Vision Of The Church"

Rev. Kahler

The Moment of Offering:

Liturgist

Invitation To Generosity:

Liturgist

We've heard God's call to us – to be abundant with our gifts of grace, love, forgiveness and time. And so let us be abundant in our giving so that the work of the church can be carried out beyond this building.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

Collective Creator we thank you for the gifts of the people – from our ancestors to our elders to those who have still yet to come, we share what we have so that all can flourish and follow you. Amen.

The Moment Of Offering:

Ushers Serve

The Offertory:

*Doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.**

*Hymn of Commitment: “Be Thou My Vision” No.382

*The Benediction:

The Works Testify: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter was written by (Rev. Nellie Hutchinson, who serves as the Minister for Congregational and Community Engagement for the United Church of Christ.

*The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes

*The Light is carried forth	Acolytes serve
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*The Worship Leaders exit

*The Postlude: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Each of Us	A Minister of Christ
Rev. Allen Kahler	Minister
Barb Engle	Congregation President
Jan Miller	Board Secretary
Maggie Bolinger	Office Secretary
Stacey Smith	Church Treasurer
Lisa Krueckeberg	Financial Secretary
Shelly Nussbaum	Music Director/Church Organist
Kacie Shaffer	Custodian
Justin Shaffer	Building Manager

Lois Isch, Jerry Hill	Door Greeters
Brenda Strickler, Confirmands	Ushers
Scott Heller	Money Counter
Confirmands	Acolytes

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We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors: Please sign our Friendship Folder located in each pew.

Our altar flowers and bulletins are presented by Scott and Brenda Strickler in honor of Bob and Mary Strickler on their 70th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Bob and Mary!

Our Operation Help for May will be **cereal**. Please place your donations in the tubs in the dining room and West vestibule.

The May meeting of the Official Board has been rescheduled from today until next Sunday due to Mother's Day.

May/June copies of the Upper Room devotionals are available in the vestibules for those who wish to take one.

New Series for Easter: We continue our series of lessons on the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation contains some of the most cryptic language and most fanciful imagery in the entire Bible. It has been used to try to forecast the events of the end times, as well as to call hopeless Christians to fortitude and endurance. Its lectionary placement in the season of Easter is notable, as it draws us to another contemporary application of this book: as a guide to experiencing the resurrected life. John's vision allows us to see the world, the church, and the Christian life in the way God envisions it: not for how it is, but for how it can be. And each week, through the power of the one who makes all things new, we are called to make those possibilities a resurrection reality.

Brooks, Kyle E.. A Preacher's Guide to Lectionary Sermon Series, Volume 2: Thematic Plans for Years C (pp. 195-205). Kindle Edition.

Pastor Allen will be in Indianapolis from May 13th to May 15th for Transitional Pastor Training. He and Shannon will then be taking a few days of vacation and will return to Decatur on May 22nd. Rev. Susan O'Shaunessy will be our guest pastor next Sunday, May 18.

Forms for those wishing to have automated withdrawals for their tithes and offerings can be found in the vestibules. Please give the completed form to treasurer Stacey Smith.

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, May 14: Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.
Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 18: Official Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.

www.zionuccdeatur.org e-mail: office: office@zionuccdeatur.org
pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's attendance: 47 Offering: \$ 1799.00 (\$500 Fruchte Funeral
Dinner))

Needed each week: \$4085.87