

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Third and Jackson Streets
Decatur, Indiana**

**(*)Please stand either in body or in spirit
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

February 1, 2026

Matthew 5:1—12

“How creative means of expression can provoke meaningful and faithful action in our world.”

Gathering Music: “How Great Thou Art” Shelly Nussbaum
The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Barb Engle
(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “Canon In D Major” Heavenly Ringers
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:

*Call to Worship: Liturgist
We are a holy tapestry of mystery and meaning,
A fine garment of divine blessing and human care,
A gentle weave of deep sighs and fervent prayers,
A piece of art woven with whispers and exclamation points,
We are God's tapestry
Touched with mystery and filled with meaning.

*The Hymn of Praise: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” No.43

*The Invocation: (In Unison) Liturgist
Holy God, in this season that commemorates the life and ministry of Jesus, remind us that his ministry is always and ever

actively reaching out toward us. And in this hour of worship, help us to be open to the challenges of his words, the power of his healing, and the opportunity to labor alongside him as both Savior and friend. In his holy name. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ:**

Liturgist

Jesus is our peace. He has reconciled us to God; born in a manger and died on the cross. We meet in the name of Jesus and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***The Affirmation of Faith: (Unison)**

We believe that we are the light of the world. We believe we should let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

We believe that our love should be genuine. We believe that we should hate what is evil, and that we should hold fast to what is good.

We believe that if we live by the Spirit, we should also be guided by the Spirit.

We believe in the church, the Body of Christ that is active in the world today to bring reconciliation and justice, and to announce the good news of God's love and forgiveness.

We believe we should not become conceited, compete against one another, or envy one another. We believe that we should clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.

We believe that we are called to live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Scripture Reading: Psalm 15

Liturgist
Pew Bible, Pg. 622

The Special Music: “Let There Be Peace On Earth” Heavenly Ringers

Time with the Youth:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

Prayer of our Savior:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

The Prayer Response: “Spirit Divine, Hear Our Prayer”

**Spirit Divine, hear our prayer,
And make our hearts Your home;
Descend with all Your gracious pow'r,
Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.**

The Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:1—12

Rev. Kahler
Pew Bible, Pg. 835

The word of God for the People of God.

The Response: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon Hymn: “Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee” No. 79

The Sermon: “The gift of Poetic Challenge”

The Moment of Offering: Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer Of Thanksgiving: (Unison)

Your abundance is without measure and cannot be defined or contained, gracious Lord. It spills out, overflowing into our world and our lives. We thank you and praise you for the wondrous gifts of your Spirit. May these offerings contribute to the peace and wholeness of your creation. Amen.

The Offering: Ushers Serve

Offertory: "Awake, Awake To Love And Work"

* 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.**

*The Hymn of Commitment: “Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart” No.562

*The Benediction: (Responsively)

Be forever blessed,

Forever loved,

Forever cradled in God's arms,

Forever called by name.

Go, knowing God's grace,

Sharing God's peace,

Our next College boxes will be sent next Sunday, February 8th. We have 1 boy and 1 girl receiving boxes this semester.

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. A light meal will be provided by Music and Worship Committee at 6 p.m., followed by communion and worship services at 6:30 p.m. Our theme this year is a five-part series focusing on the “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John. We hope you will all plan to join us weekly on this journey to Easter and the Resurrection. Anyone who is willing to help with one of the meals is asked to see Barb Engle.

A time of fun, food, and games is planned for our Youth Group on Sunday, February 15th from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Please bring friends and a favorite board game. Contact Janet Smith for more information. We hope to plan a March outing during Spring Break for Cosmic Bowling at Villa Lanes. More updates to come!

Men’s Fellowship will collect donations of canned soup **next Sunday** in celebration of “Souper Bowl” Sunday. Simple hearty meals like soup and stew are especially needed during the cold winter months. Last year, there were 182 cans donated and we hope to exceed that this year.

Christian Education committee will meet after worship today to plan 2026 activities.

Annual Financial Statements for 2025 are available for pickup in the dining room. Any remaining statements will be included in the Lenten mailing, which will be available next week.

Anyone who would like to be involved in the Youth Council is asked to contact Janet Smith. Christian Education Committee is trying to reactivate this group and is asking for assistance from anyone who would like to help our Jr.-Sr. High group become more active, both within the church and in the community.

Pastor Allen will be in Evansville Indiana this Saturday, February 7th, to attend Anti-Racism Training through the Indiana/Kentucky Conference.

Looking Ahead

Today, Feb. 1: Christian Education Committee meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 4: Handbell Choir Practice 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 5: Bible Study, Lounge, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8: “Souper Bowl” food drive

College Boxes

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e-mail: office: office@zionuccdecatur.org

pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's attendance:

Offering: \$

Needed each week: \$4045.87

Please scan this code to make your donation by PayPal



