



**Monumental:
Celebrating God's Goodness
6th Sunday After Pentecost
July 17, 2022 + 9:00 a.m.**

Congregational responses are in BOLD.

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Regardless of your church membership or affiliation, all are encouraged to participate in communion or to come forward for a blessing.

Children of all ages are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Page numbers that are listed are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal on the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers are listed in bold, large print on the top of the page.

If you would like home communion, hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at office@zionstratford.org or Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715.391.9311 or pastor@zionstratford.org.

Ministers: All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

Interim Pastor: Andrea Fluegel

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Busche

Organists: Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

Custodian: Gerry Viegut

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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Blessing written by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, in *So Loved: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Lent*. Posted on the Worship Ways page of the United Church of Christ website. http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Scripture Focus: The word “monumental” means something that’s huge, vast, awesome, or bigger than we can imagine! We’ll be exploring how God is all those things—and he still loves and cares for each and every one of us. God loves us so much. God loves us for who we are.

PRELUDE

New worship songs that the children will be singing during Vacation Bible School. Please listen (and join in if able) as everyone will sing them again during the worship service.

***“Monumental Love”
“God Is Always With Us”
“Nothing That Can Separate Me”***

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 66)*

Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth!

Sing about the glory of his name! Tell the world how glorious he is.

Say to God: “How awesome are your works!”

**Everything on earth will worship you;
they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs.**

Come and see what our God has done,
what awesome miracles he does for his people!

OPENING PRAYER *(based on Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18)*

Holy God, your faithful love toward us never ends!

It is as sure and dependable as the sky over our heads.

We praise You!

**We've gathered together in this place
to offer you our worship and our thanksgiving;
to declare to any who will listen
that You are our God, and we are Your people.
May Your Spirit be at work among us as we worship,
opening our eyes to the light of Your presence in this place.**

To You alone,
Faithful Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONGS

You are encouraged to join in singing and doing the movements to the songs.

"Monumental Love" (VBS Theme Song)

"God Is Always With Us" (VBS Song)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Infinite Love, heart of all life, you loved this world into being with such love as to birth yourself among us. Opening ourselves to your love, guide us to live beyond ourselves and join in your mission and ministry of love that does not separate but unites; a love that does not push away, but embraces. Trusting this we know we are loved and that we are created to share this love. In Jesus' love, we pray. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:1-15

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Halle, Halle, Halle - lu- jah”*

GOSPEL

John 3:16-21

The Holy Gospel according to John the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S GOOD NEWS

Let us pray. **God, thank you for loving us in the middle of our messes. We’re glad you don’t wait for us to get it all right before you love us. Thank you for loving us no matter what. Amen.**

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

SONG *“Nothing That Can Separate Me”* (VBS Song)

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to end enslavement, dehumanization, or brutality of any kind and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers. We now lift before you all people, places and circumstances silently in our hearts or aloud with our voices...God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us, O Lord, to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility, and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire this worshiping community to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of Vacation Bible School. Help the leaders, parents, and children know your abundant and awesome love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead. We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table. Gather us with them in your eternal glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

Page 154

“Draw The Circle Wide”

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

BLESSING

PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Great God of gifts: Thank you! You feed us in many, many ways, and we are grateful to receive! We look to you, we look to each other, and we praise your name. As you've fed us, now make us food for the world. Thank you, great God of gifts! Amen.

We Serve the World in God's Name

BLESSING *(inspired by John 3:14-21)*

Let us rejoice: God so loves the world!

May God your Maker send you back into the world with creative energies refreshed.

May Christ the Light illuminate your darkest moments.

And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love guide you until we worship together again.

This day and forevermore. Amen!

SENDING SONG

“Awesome God”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Tell everyone about God’s great and awesome love!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

213501 Legacy Street
Stratford, WI 54484-5908
715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>