

22 Pentecost  
LEADERSHIP LETTER FOR OCTOBER 24, 2021

Dear Zion Family,

Pastor Janet's sermon, *Mom Always Liked You Best*, was filled with gems about the Kingdom of Jesus for us always to remember. Here are a few:

- "It is where the last are first and servicing rather than being served is what matters."
- Jesus says, "You're great when you trust that God loves you."
- Remember: we care for each other because God cares for us."
- "Treat each person as one of God's beloved children."

Due to family commitments, October 17<sup>th</sup> was the last Sunday that The Reverend Janet Hoover will be presiding at Zion. We are ever so grateful for the Bible studies and the many sermons with all the gems for us to remember—the first ones preached from Pastor Janet's living room and the later ones delivered at Zion, behind the shield, once we were able to worship in person. The Zion community has been so blessed by Pastor Janet's care, support, faith, time, and service over this past year and a half. In appreciation, members of Zion gave our revered supply pastor a basketful of thank you cards, a fall floral arrangement, a gift card to Barnes and Noble, and a thank you poster. Pastor Janet, thank you for your ministry at Zion and may you "keep on keeping on" that *Long Winding Road* where God gives power and strength to the faint. We hope you will worship with us sometime soon.

WORSHIP AT ZION

There were 34 congregants worshipping in person, 14 people who Zoomed our service, and two who used YouTube on October 17<sup>th</sup>—a total of fifty! We all were very grateful that Bob Peters agreed to be the substitute organist on such short notice. Thank you, Mr. Peters. We will be holding Kelli Watson's daughter, Kira, and family in our prayers this week, as she recovers from emergency surgery.

As is the case each week, our service on October 24<sup>th</sup> will be offered in several ways. We continue in-person worship at Zion for the entire month of October. If you plan to attend by Zoom, use the following: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09>, Meeting ID: 843 5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654#. If you are joining us on Zoom, please be sure you are on mute and that your video is turned off from 10 AM when the service commences until it ends and the "Joyful Chaos" begins. To join the service by Livestream on our YouTube channel, you can do so by visiting our page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtbCe2z7bIPvxp62IA> The Service of the Word version is found later in this newsletter.

**Please be sure to welcome the congregants from Our Saviour who will be worshipping with us on the 24<sup>th</sup>!!**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AT ZION

Thank you for volunteering to greet, usher, or be the Worship Assistant at our services. Please remember that there are still committees to join and **council seats to be filled**.

Property (Jim Schieble)

Christian Education (Matt LaFave)

Hospitality (Kim Marscher)

Social Ministry (Jeanne Gymburch)

Worship & Music (Jim Marscher)

Personnel (Nancy Thompson)

Transportation (Dan Rodahan)

Disabilities Ministry (Dan Rodahan)

Stewardship (Jim Marscher)

Technology (Mark Thompson)

Your Neighbors (Patsy Glista)

Council met again on Monday evening to finalize the questions that will be asked of our candidate for pastor.

### THREE CHURCHES UNITED IN FAITH

#### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY SERVICE AT OUR SAVIOUR

A committee of people from Zion, Our Saviour, and Trinity Herkimer have been meeting to plan how we can grow our faith together. The first event is an evening service at Our Saviour on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Parishioners of all three churches as well as their friends in the community are encouraged to come and/or send in names of members, family, and friends who have died during these past two years, or for that matter, any year, so they can be remembered by name with candles that will be placed in the windows looking out onto Genesee Street. The light from the candles will remind us of the ones who have been lights in our lives. This will be a special service allowing many of us to say goodbye to loved ones whom we could not be with when they died. Please call Sara at (315) 732-4110 or text Fran Holzberger at [Rholzberger@roadrunner.com](mailto:Rholzberger@roadrunner.com) or text Laurel McCurdy at [lemccurdy@gmail.com](mailto:lemccurdy@gmail.com) with names of people you would like remembered on All Saints Sunday. As we get closer to that date, more information will be available.

Let us end this letter with the lyrics of two verses of last Sunday's Sending Song #551: **Vs. 1** The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.

**Vs. 4** Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

May your days be peaceful,

Laurel McCurdy, council co-president

*Candles in the Windows of Our Saviour on All Saints Sunday, 2020*



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the kind words and lovely gifts you gave me this past Sunday. The notes are wonderful (I've already read them twice), the super-size card has been given a place of honor, the dish garden is brightening my living room, and a gift card for books...couldn't be better. Mostly, however, I'm grateful for being a part of your congregation the last 17 months (as well as my earlier service several years ago). Your examples of faithful service are an inspiration and I value my time with you. I will be praying for the right person at the right time to become your next pastor. May God bless each and every one of you.

Janet Hoover

Zion Lutheran Church  
New Hartford, NY  
22 Pentecost



October 24, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Exaltation*, by Robert J. Hughes -Kelli Watson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. God our comforter:

**Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** *God, Whose Almighty Word* Hymn #673 vs. 1 & 4 -Kelli Watson

Vs. 1 God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

Vs. 4 Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might: boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

**Prayer of the Day**

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:7-9

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 7:23-28

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

**Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:**        -Deacon Patsy Glista

The more time I spent with our lectionary texts this week, the more scattered my thoughts became as to which way to go. There's the prophet Jeremiah, who is called by God to be His messenger of justice and grace. In the middle of this book filled with God's accusation and warning and promises of judgment for Israel comes Jeremiah's sharing of God's hope and grace. Our Old Testament lesson brings a promise to restore those who have been scattered into exile and bring them back to Jerusalem, back to a time when all nations will acknowledge Israel's God. "Sing aloud with gladness...proclaim, give praise." 'See, I am going to ...gather them from the farthest parts of the earth.' God says the blind, the lame, those with child and in labor, will come back. These are the remnants those who have lived for 70 years through the trauma of exile in Babylon - refugees, immigrants, the destitute, the marginal, whom God leads on the difficult and long journey back to restore Israel. This text is a wonderful reminder in times of life's struggles that God never leaves us and promises us hope.

Psalms 126, which I would encourage you to read this week, is also a promise of hope. It reminds us of God's restoration of the fortunes of Zion and the great things God has done in the past; but it also is a plea that God again bring restoration. Much like it is joyous to see the sun after many rainy cloudy days, it is uplifting to be reminded of God's goodness in these days of continued COVID, economic uncertainties, torrential and destructive rains in Dolgeville, medication and food recalls, gas price hikes, the seemingly never-ending shootings in schools and other places, and unrest in so many places in the world. Surely, it is good to know where to find God's messages of hope in our Bibles.

And, in the New Testament lesson, the author of Hebrews reminds us that we have Jesus, the great high priest, who is able to intercede for us.

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Think about the hopefulness in this voiced plea from Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, sitting on the side of the road. Bartimaeus, who has never visually seen Jesus, and, despite being the son of Timaeus, he is most likely homeless as, in Jesus' day, a blind person was 'less than desirable.' Nonetheless, Bartimaeus, hearing Jesus is coming, shouts out to him. When the crowd tries to make him be quiet, he persists, hollering even louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And what happens?

Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." Bartimaeus throws off his cloak, jumps up and comes to Jesus. Mark packs a lot in these seven verses of our text.

We have spent many weeks in the mid-section of Mark's gospel this fall - nine, by my count. In general, Mark wants us to know that Jesus wants followers, disciples who will go where Jesus is and 'take up their crosses and follow him.' We have heard Jesus talk with his followers about his coming death and resurrection; about how difficult it will be to be saved. We have heard Peter declare, "You are the Messiah!" and James and John ask to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus in his kingdom. We have watched the rich man turn away when Jesus tells him to sell all his possessions and then come and follow him. Jesus has taught about service and sacrifice and made it very clear that He has come for all people - Jews and Gentiles, the deaf, blind, lame, young children, the widows, and the lepers.

The story of Bartimaeus, which ends Chapter 10, provides a transition point as Mark moves to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in Chapter 11. It also does a good job of encompassing all that has come before. It is both a healing story and a call story. I think it is also a faith story. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, upon hearing Jesus is coming down the road, yells out to him. One of the commentaries I read indicated that Mark uses 'blindness' to indicate ignorance or faithlessness. Remember Jesus saying, 'whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it' and that children basically had no status in Jesus' day. Bartimaeus is also without status and represents those some would not expect to be in the know. Yet he did know about Jesus. He knew enough to believe Jesus had the ability to 'have mercy on' him; and aside from Peter's proclamation of 'You are the Messiah,' Bartimaeus is the only other person in this section of Mark who really understands who Jesus is. 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.' Bartimaeus understands Jesus' lineage back to King David. He also understands what is expected of him. The crowd tells him Jesus is calling him, and what does he do? Bartimaeus jumps up, throws off his cloak, and goes. First, he doesn't hesitate - he jumps up. Second, he throws off his cloak - this is a big deal. Bartimaeus is a poor beggar. His cloak is probably the only real possession he has - providing him warmth in the cold, doubling as a blanket at night when he sleeps on the ground and collecting coins people throw down in front of him. He throws off this prized possession - basically, Bartimaeus does what the rich man a couple weeks ago, could not do - gives up all for Jesus. It seems like it would take some faith in the one you are going to see in order to do this.

There are some other things happening in this story. Notice the crowd. In the beginning, they are telling Bartimaeus to be quiet – they are pushing him aside – he’s not important. But when Jesus acknowledges him, suddenly it’s a different story. Now it is the crowd encouraging Bartimaeus to go to Jesus, maybe they even part a way for him to get through the crowd. It’s not Jesus making the call, it is other followers calling. A step toward helping the disciples understand that part of their role is to call new disciples.

Bartimaeus gets to Jesus, who asks, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ This is the very same question Jesus asked James and John last week. James and John wanted to share in Jesus’ glory. Bartimaeus, on the other hand, says, ‘My Teacher, let me see again,’ acknowledging Jesus as Teacher. Bartimaeus wants to see – to see physically, but maybe he is also seeking clearer understanding of who Jesus is. Jesus’ answer is, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately, he regains his sight and follows Jesus on the way. Notice Bartimaeus doesn’t go off in the other direction, like the rich man did, or so many others who had been healed. Bartimaeus follows Jesus – he becomes a disciple. The now sighted man’s interaction with Jesus has given him an even better understanding of who Jesus is. He already understood him to be the Son of David and a Teacher. He already had some faith, but now his faith is such that he is willing to follow where Jesus is going. Martin Luther wrote, "I cannot by my own strength or understanding come to faith in our Lord Jesus," nor could Bartimaeus; nor can we.

Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, in her commentary on this text, writes about how underneath the surface of Mark’s gospel ‘lies a commentary on the nature of faith.’ Throughout Mark’s gospel the Greek word for faith, ‘pisti’ appears, typically translated ‘faith’ or ‘believe/belief.’

- 5:34 And (Jesus) said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.”
- 5:36 But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”
- 9:19 And he answered them, “Your faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.”
- 9:23 And Jesus said to him, “If you are able! - All things can be done for the one who believes.”
- 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!”
- 9:42 “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.”

Hebrews 11, which talks at length about faith, begins with this description, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Webster defines faith as unquestioning belief, complete trust, confidence, or reliance. What do Lutherans say about faith? Martin Luther wrote, “Faith is God’s work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God...It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it...Faith is a living, bold trust in God’s grace, so certain of God’s favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God’s grace makes you happy, joyful, and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures.”

The ELCA website shares, “When Lutherans talk about faith, we are talking about the relationship God’s Holy Spirit creates with us. It’s a relationship where God’s promise of steadfast love and mercy in Jesus opens us to a life of bold trust in God and joyful, generous, service to everyone we know and meet in daily life... At the same time, faith does not close our minds to the world and our hearts to others. We continue to listen to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. We listen to the witness of others, and we watch for the ways God is active in the world around us. Faith opens a place for engaging others in conversation, for seeking the truth, for asking questions and speaking love in word and deed.” As Lutherans, we express our faith through the use of the Apostles’ and Nicene creeds.

Blind Bartimaeus acted in faith when, from the side of the road, he called out to Jesus to ‘have mercy on him.’ He trusted that Jesus would somehow hear him above the noisy crowd and would respond. When Jesus called, Bartimaeus boldly responded. He didn’t know for sure what would happen, but he trusted and answered Jesus’ call. His faith made him well, his sight regained, Bartimaeus followed Jesus ‘on the way,’ becoming a disciple.

May we, too, act in faith and respond to Jesus’ invitation to follow Him. “Seek and find mercy. Ask, and share in healing. Gather, and join in praise. Go, and be overjoyed.” [365d prayer (10/19)] Amen.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*ANTHEM: Prelude on "St. Catherine" (Faith of Our Fathers), by Henry F. Henry -Kelli Watson*

## Prayers of Intercession

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

Risen One, we give you thanks for congregations and ministries throughout the world that serve as centers of prayer and action. Empower missionaries, teachers, healers, evangelists, and all who are sent to share your song of joy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

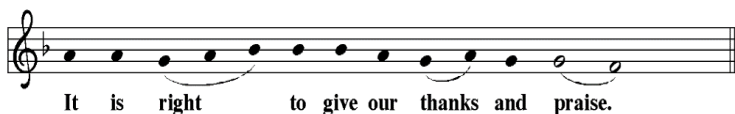
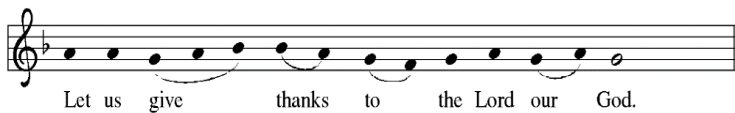
Healing One, we give you thanks for all who labor for the health of others. Comfort and strengthen all who struggle with chronic pain. Send healing and relief to all who are sick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Providing One, we give you thanks for all who provide for others. Inspire generosity in your people, so that we carry out the work of making disciples of all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Listen to the cries of your people waiting patiently for your healing hand and comforting Spirit, especially those who suffer with chronic pain and all cancer patients, Pr. Mary Etta, comfort for the family and friends of Fran King, healing for Darlene L., comfort for the family of Catherine Schieble, comfort for the family of Michael Gilleece, healing for Joyce, MaryEllen S., Carole, Kira, Pr. Roger, Patsy, Wesley Williams, Jeanette, Ed and family, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... and join in their unending hymn.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who 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 and ever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION,

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Blessing

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. Amen.

**Sending Song:** *O Savior, Precious Savior Hymn#820 vs. 1 & 4 Hymn # -Kelli Watson*

**Vs. 1** O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love; O name of might favor, all other names above: we worship thee; we bless thee; thee alone we sing; we praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King.

**Vs. 4** Oh, grant the consummation of this our song above, in endless adoration and everlasting love; then shall we praise and bless thee where perfect praises ring, and evermore confess thee, our Savior and our King!

### Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Gothic Fragment, by Stewart Landon -Kelli Watson*

## *Autumn Prayer*

O God of Creation, you have blessed us  
with the changing of the seasons.

As we embrace these autumn months,  
may the earlier setting of the sun  
remind us to take time to rest.

May the crunch of the leaves  
beneath our feet remind us  
of the brevity of this earthly life.

May the steam of our breath  
in the cool air remind us that it is you  
who gives us your breath of life.

May the scurrying of the squirrels and  
the migration of the birds remind us  
that you call us to follow your will.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

Amen.

