

Zion United Methodist Church
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“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Sunday, February 17th, 2026

Rev. Dr. Andrea Cummings, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent
Rev. LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Presiding Bishop



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First Sunday in Lent

***Please stand as you are able in body or spirit**

Prelude~ Instrumental Selection

Welcome~ Rev. Dr. Andrea Cummings

***Opening Hymn~ “Amazing Grace” - #378 UMH**

Opening Prayer

***Offering**

**Doxology~ “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”~#650
AAHH**

Prayer of Illumination: O Lord, may the words of your mouth be our daily bread, and may the leading of your Spirit become our way; in Jesus’ name. Amen

***The Scripture Readings**

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7: The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden,

nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

***Psalm Reading~**

766 PSALTER

Psalm 32

Ps. 32:11
Gary Alan Smith

RESPONSE (General)

Be glad in the Lord and re-joice;
shout for joy, you up-right in heart.

R

¹ **Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.**

² **Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ **When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.**

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ **I acknowledged my sin to you,**

and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";
then you forgave the guilt of my sin. R**

⁶ Therefore let those who are godly
offer prayer to you;

**at a time of distress, the rush of great waters
shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me,
you preserve me from trouble;
you encompass me with deliverance.

⁸ **I will instruct you and teach you
the way you should go;**

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without
understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.

¹⁰ **Many are the pangs of the wicked;
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous;
Shout for joy, all you upright in heart! R

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***Second Reading:** Romans 5:12-19: Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought

condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Preparation~ "O, How I Love Jesus"

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark your Calendar

Announcements? *If you have an announcement or prayer request, please email it to zionlexpk@gmail.com by Wednesday.*

Ready to Join Zion? *Please text 301-997-3328. Pastor Cummings will reach out to you to arrange a time to discuss the membership vows and schedule a Sunday to join Zion.*

The Annual Heritage Potluck is on February 22nd. *Zion will close out Black History Month with its annual Heritage Potluck. Traditional dishes are requested. Please sign up to bring a dish. The sign-up sheet is located on the ushers' table. For additional information, please contact: Sis. Claudia Barnett or any member of the Kitchen Committee.*

IGNITE *is for youth in grades 6-12. It features high-energy worship with powerful worship bands. A relevant, engaging message from nationally and locally known speakers. The conference will take place March 20-22 in Ocean City, MD. If you would like to donate to the Youth ministry to cover registration and lodging, please mark your envelope accordingly. For questions, email Min. Kevin Harris at krharri2@gmail.com*

Proclamation~ Dr. Cummings

Affirmation of Faith~ 881 UMH

Prayers of the People: *Response - Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Confession & Pardon & Peace~ pg. 8, UMH

Thanksgiving & Communion~ *See insert for Black History Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord's Prayer

Post Communion Prayer: *Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.*

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***Benediction~** Dr. Cummings