

# October 18, 2020 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Please pray for our Call Committee as they begin their work in searching for Zion's next pastor.



The 2020 Confirmation Class requests the honor of your presence at Outdoor Worship on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., as they make their Affirmation of Baptism. Holy Communion will be offered for all, and social distancing will be observed.



All Sunday School families with children in Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come to the CEB at 6:30 p.m. on Wed., November 4<sup>th</sup>, to help pack bag lunches for Faith Kitchen. Masks and gloves will be worn. RSVP to Rhonda Rossi at [youth@zionoldwick.com](mailto:youth@zionoldwick.com).



Please continue to support the ministries of Zion with your offerings and prayers. Financial contributions can be mailed to the Parish Office at P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858.



Sign up to donate items to this year's Military Recognition care packages. Visit [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) and find the sign-up by clicking on the magnifying glass at the top of the page and entering the church's email address ([parishadministrator@zionoldwick.com](mailto:parishadministrator@zionoldwick.com)) in the "Search for a Sign Up" box.



Welcome one and all to Sunday morning Adult Fellowship, hosted by Rhonda Rossi! This is a time of informal conversation and reconnecting with each other. We are practicing social distancing, wearing our masks, and having a great time! It's been good to catch up and see familiar faces again.

We are gathering in front of the CEB at 9:30 a.m. and finding a place to meet. Bagels are being provided. Please bring your own coffee. Let's reconnect!

*In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:  
<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things.

### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

### **Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

### *Members*

- + **Donna Gorky**, *who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.*
- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Bonnie Summer**, *who is undergoing rehabilitation and recovering at home.*
- + **Ted Talis**, *who is recovering at home.*
- + **Paul Zerfas**, *who received a stem cell transplant to combat his multiple myeloma.*

### *Friends and Family*

- + **Pat Ciccattelli**, *friend of Millie Melblom, who is in the hospital with cancer.*
- + **Bill Gibbs**, *relative of the Formalarie family, who has ALS.*
- + **Rita Gorky**, *mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering at home from a stroke and remains unable to communicate.*
- + **The family of Jay Hunter**, *friend of Sandy & John Matsen, who are mourning Jay's passing.*
- + **Jeff**, *brother-in-law of Robbin Lamo, who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.*
- + **Daniel Kentopp**, *brother of Linda Smith, who is struggling with a number of health issues.*
- + **Dixie Kentopp**, *mother of Linda Smith, who is recovering at home.*
- + **Sally Kohl**, *mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is in long-term care and struggling with Parkinson's disease.*
- + **Greg Minerowicz**, *son of John and Wendy, who is making progress in his recovery from an acute stroke.*
- + **Noreen**, *friend of Debra Kaufman, who is undergoing chemotherapy.*
- + **Martin Simon**, *friend of the Kunkel and Wintemute families, who suffered a stroke and is recovering at home with ongoing issues.*
- + **Nicole Smith**, *friend of Colleen Bryson, who is undergoing her third brain surgery this month.*
- + **Mary Ann Wilmoth**, *relative of Judy Formalarie, who has been diagnosed with Lymphoma.*

### *Those in the Armed Services*

Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

### **Suggested prayer for those with health concerns:**

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our sisters and brothers an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Suggested prayer for military members:**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, and all who serve this country at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.