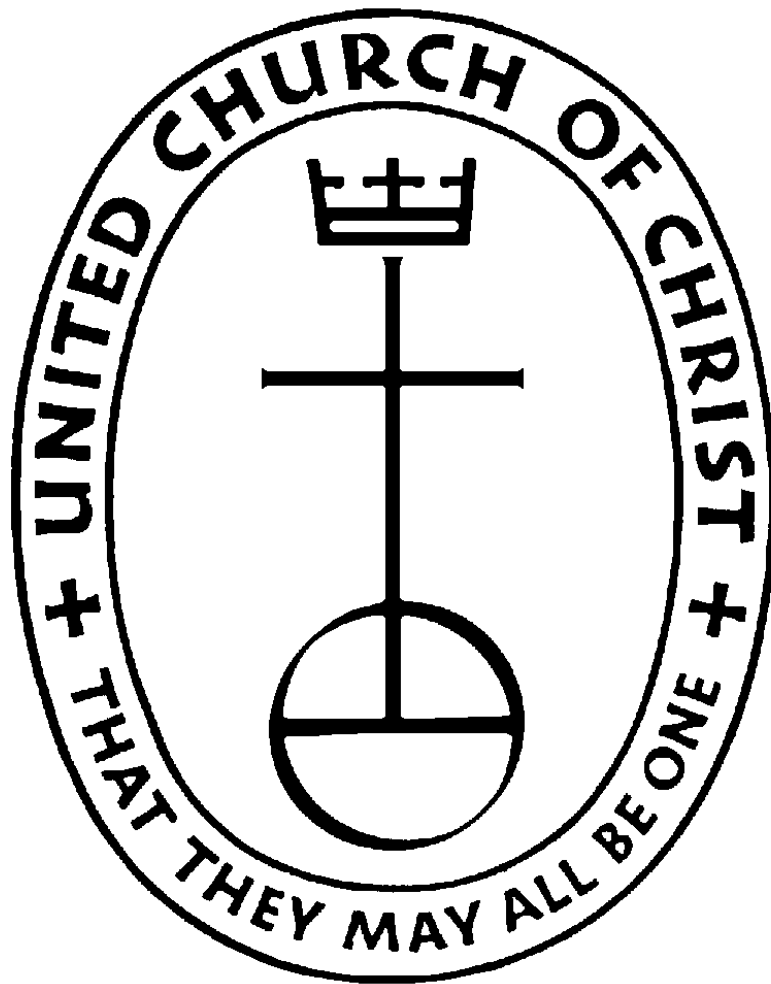


Zion
United Church of Christ
Baroda, Michigan
Rite of Confirmation
Sunday July 19th, 2020



Invitation

Pastor We invite to come forward Ethan Robert DeVries, Henry Charles Kinnison, Jacob Robert Machiniak, and Brady Alan Martin who wish to affirm their baptism by being confirmed.

Pastor Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These young people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Pastor Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Questions of the Candidates

Pastor Ethan, Henry, Jacob and Brady do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do.

Pastor Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate I do.

Pastor Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate I do.

Pastor Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidate I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate I promise, with the help of God.

Address

Pastor By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Question about Participation

Pastor Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidate I promise, with the help of God.

Welcome

Pastor Let us, the members of Zion United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Pastor Do you believe in God?

People I believe in God.

Pastor Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Candidates

Pastor and Candidates

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen

Prayers of the Congregation

Pastor Let us pray in silence. Let us pray together.

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Confirmation

Pastor We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life.

We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live, not for themselves, but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

Candidates and People Amen.

Greeting of Christian Love

Pastor and Church Representatives

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the members and friends of Zion United Church Of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

Prayer

Pastor O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Benediction

Pastor Go in the peace of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.