

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

(* All who are able, please stand

Lenten Service -

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Prelude: "There's A Green Hill Far Away" Shelly Nussbaum

*Invocation Prayer: (Unison) Kacie Shaffer, Liturgist

Lord Jesus, in this season of Lent, as we draw nearer and nearer to the cross, give us courage. Our steps falter as we anticipate following your footsteps on the road to Calvary. Be strength for our weakness, be hope for our despair, be light for our darkness. And now in these moments of worship, surround us and bless us with your matchless grace. Amen. (By Kenneth L. Gible)

*Hymn: "At The Cross" No. 188

Litany of Confession of Readiness: (Responsively) Rev. Kahler

Let us not set aside the joys and cares of life which are part of us as we travel together. We do not intend to separate our worship from our lives, but rather to bring our lives into acts of worship where the power of God may provide light and refreshment and renewal

**We agree to be who we are before God who already know us.
We shall confess together our needs.**

Confession of need: (Unison)

My life has times of joy and strength; I need to be able to rejoice and be thankful for it. My life has times of hurt and frustration; I need to be able to bring those feeling honestly before my family and my God. My life has times when I am lonely and lost; I need to be

able to admit those feelings and face my own lack of response to others. My life has times of choosing the wrong, not just by ignorance or accident, but also by rationalization, by stubborn intent; I need to be able to “See the Light” and return and be forgiven and welcome.

An Assurance of Pardon: (Responsively)

Be at peace with God, for God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to great love. Be at peace with yourself and with others, for what God grants to us in the open arms of love is available to us in our acceptance of self and one another.

We may be at peace, for Jesus said, “My peace I leave with you always.” Jesus is the light, and he calls us to be the light of the world.

Special Music: “I Exalt Thee” Heavenly Ringers

Scripture Lesson: John 8: 12-20 Rev. Kahler
Bible Pg. 931

Dialogue: “Jesus says, "I AM The Light Of The World”
Dave Gaunt/Rev. Kahler

Prayer of Commitment: Rev. Kahler

The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father in heaven hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn: "Jesus, Thou Joy Of Loving Hearts" No. 501, vs. 1,2,5

*The Benediction:

Postlude:

"Send The Light"

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Offering plates are located at the back of the center aisle and by the East door and you are welcome to make a donation as you are led by the Holy Spirit.

We greet all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this evening. Visitors are asked to please take a few moments to sign the Friendship Folder located in each pew and place it in the offering plate.

We welcome Dave Gaunt with us today; Dave is a Long-time member of this congregation and has served with the Sheriff Department and Law Enforcement for many years. Dave will be sharing stories of times when he had to shine light on darkness that needed to be exposed.

Thank you to our chefs for the meal this evening, as well as those who provided music and assisted in the service.