

Welcome to Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ!

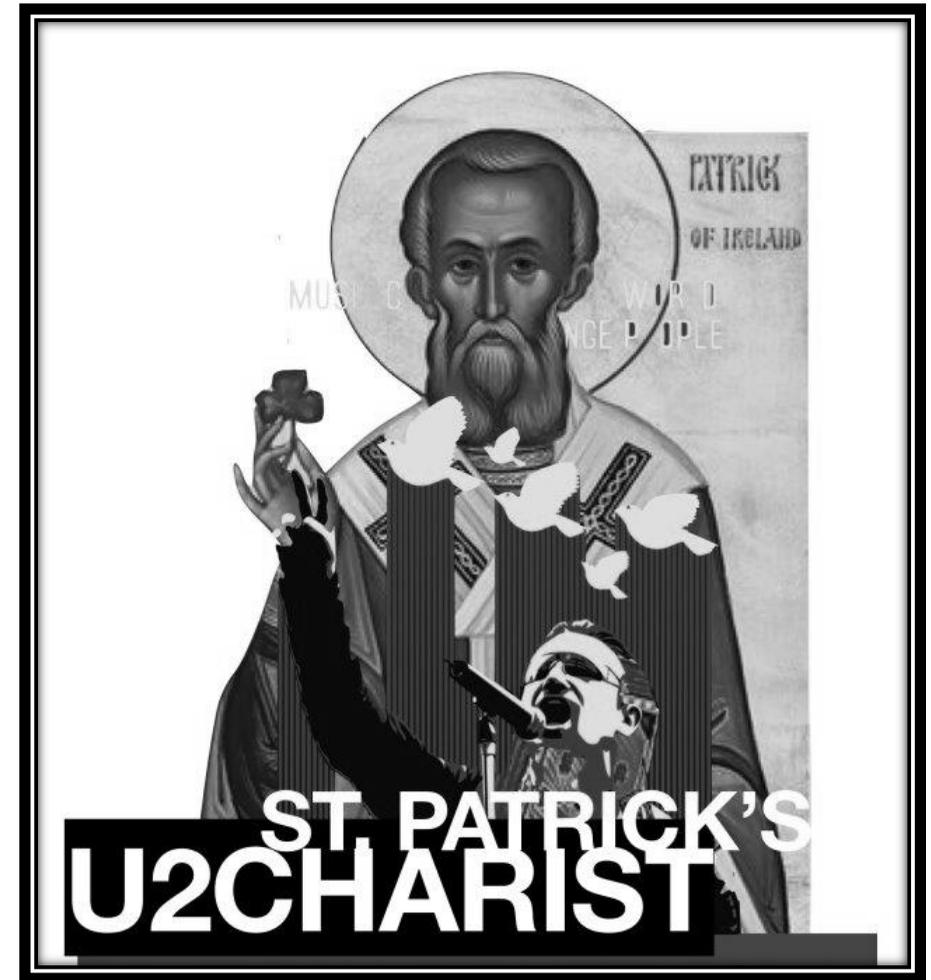


Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Part of the United Church of Christ, Zion is known as the Liberty Bell Church because in 1777, eleven bells were brought here from Philadelphia for safe-keeping during the Revolutionary War. Those bells included the State House bell, now better known as the Liberty Bell. They were hidden under the floor boards on this very site so that the British would not find and melt them to make cannons. At

Zion, we are stewards of history and stewards of faith, believing that the peace and well-being of our city is central to our call.

Tonight's gathering grew out of discussions with with a group that gathers in Zion's basement for spiritual formation, fellowship, dinner, communion and prayer on 1st and 3rd Saturday evenings each month. Recognizing the importance of arts in urban spaces and the intersection of art and spirituality, Zion is eager to host events like the St. Patrick's U2Charist or last month's *broken liturgy: church undone*. Learn more about Zion at www.libertybellchurch.org and about 1st and 3rd Saturdays at newthingallentown.blogspot.com.

Thank you for sharing in tonight's celebration!



(As celebrated March 17, 2012 at Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ, downtown Allentown. This is the chronological format. To make booklet, pages are rearranged before printing).

Invocation

**Brothers and sisters,
our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.**

**Eternal Spirit,
flow through our being and loosen our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

Come, let us worship the God of love.

Blessed are those who are honest in their ways,
who walk in the paths of God's law.

Blessed are those who treasure God's wisdom,
who seek God with all their heart.

Those who do no evil deeds
and tread the way of justice.

Blessed are those who stumble and struggle
and come to the end of their own understanding

Blessed are those who have sought their own idols
and found them lacking

Blessed our those who seek God with all their heart,
who renounce old ways

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, water, and bread.

**Blessed are those who treasure God's wisdom,
who seek God with all their heart.**

Blessed are those who, though struggling, stand
for righteousness, justice, and peace.

Blessed are those who fail to define you,
**Blessed are the poor
Blessed are the hopeful
Blessed are we, the gathered.**

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

A Creed of St. Patrick:

God has a dwelling
in heaven and earth and sea
and in all things
that arc in them.

**We bind unto ourselves today
the strong Name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three.**

Pride (In the Name of Love)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

All are invited to enjoy the simplicity and splendor of this ancient rite, this meal shared among friends.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God..

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We were born to be with you in this space and time. We were born to sing for you, to lift you up, to sing whatever song you call us to sing. **We give you back our voice.**

We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. Only love can leave such a mark. Only love, only love can heal such a scar. Justified until we die, **we will magnify your name.**

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, your movements in mysterious ways, the gathering of your people with a shout and with a song. We ask for the feeding of the hungry even as we share this meal in splendor and simplicity. We ask for the healing of all scars, the ending of all wars, the renewal of systems, all people. We thank you for this gathering, and for the gatherings of your people everywhere, and for the work done in you and through you in the world. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name.

Our bodies, now are begging bowls, begging to get back, begging to get back to our truest selves, to the rhythms of our souls, to the holy rhythm of unconsciousness, we yearn to be released from our control. We long to be full. This is a moment of surrender, of vision over visibility. This is the Holy Meal.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **You offer us yourself.**

In the same way, Jesus took the cup after supper, saying: "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **You give yourself for us.**

Consecrate us and these gifts of bread and wine, that in receiving them at this table, and in offering here our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and one another, and remain faithful to the tasks he sets before us.

In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives. Come, for all is ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Where The Streets Have No Name

Gloria

Gloria, in te domine
In You, Lord, we rejoice
Gloria, exultate
We exalt you, Lord
Gloria, in te domine
Oh Lord, loosen our lips
So we may sing

Gloria, in te domine
In You, Lord, we rejoice

We try, we try to stand up
But can't find our feet
We try, we try to speak up
But only in you are made complete

Gloria, in te domine
Gloria, exultate
Oh Lord, if we had anything
Anything at all
We'd give it to you
We'd give it to you

We exalt you Lord,
In you rejoice.

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Reprise of St. Patrick

God has a dwelling
in heaven and earth and sea
and in all things
that arc in them.

We bind unto ourselves today
the strong Name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three.

Postlude: Scarlet

Communion liturgy adapted from UCC Word and Sacrament 3 for this gathering.

Gloria adapted for this gathering from "Gloria" by U2, © 1982.

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