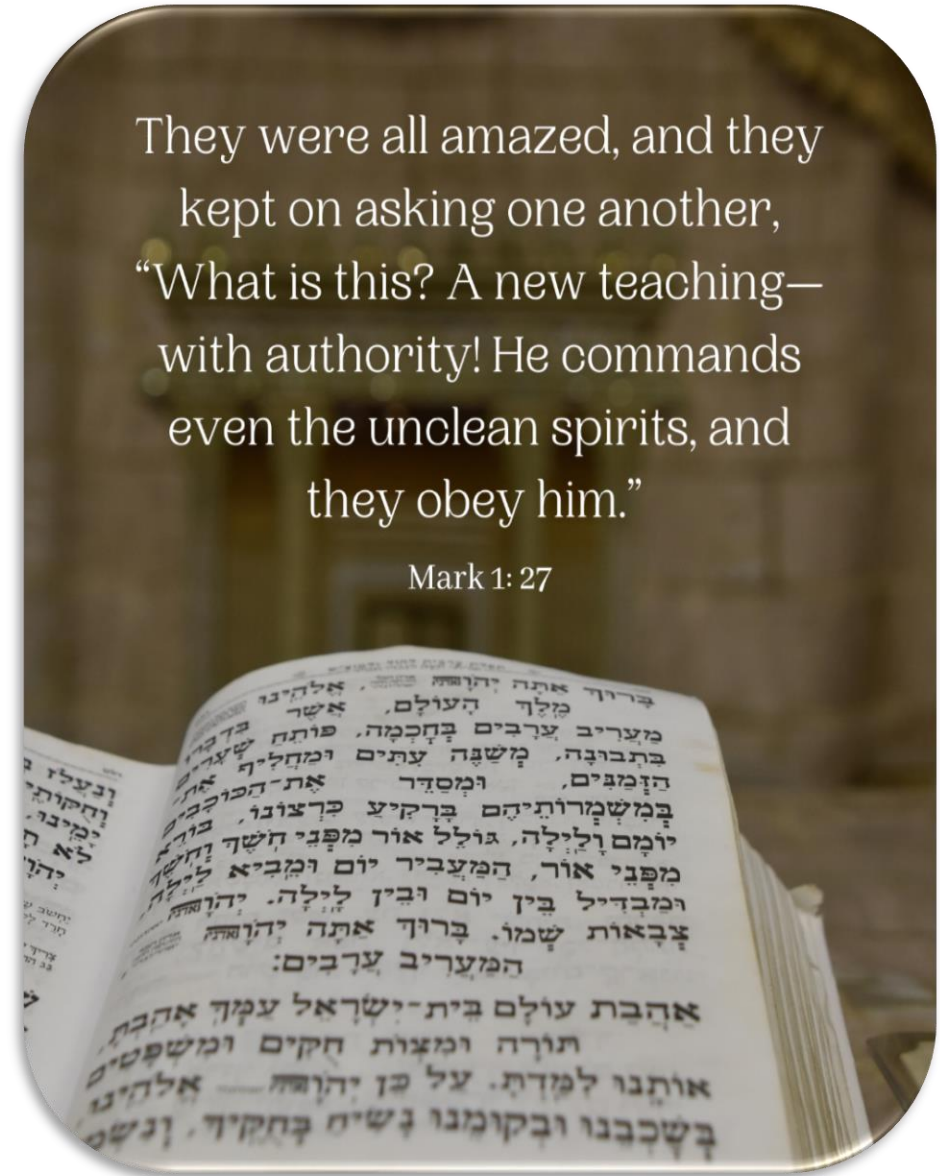


**Welcome to Zion United Church of Christ**

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship or are just passing through,*

*we hope our service has blessed you on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”

Mark 1: 27

**STAFF DIRECTORY**

Pastor .....	Reverend Janet Crissinger
.....	pastorjan@zionlesueur.com
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper .....	Diane Frauendienst
.....	zion@zionlesueur.com
Custodian .....	Dustin & Tonya Kahle
Choir Director .....	Vacant
Musical Director .....	Brian Braun
.....	bwb223ls@gmail.com
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Musicians:.....	Mary Trimbo
.....	Betty Jo Braun
.....	Art & Barb Straub

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**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
LE SUEUR, MINNESOTA  
THE REV. JANET CRISSINGER, PASTOR**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

January 28, 2024

9:00 a.m.

*"O God, you have made us for yourself,  
And our hearts are restless until they find their rest  
in you.  
St. Augustine, The Confessions*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION *Who God Says You Are* Creative Sheep  
CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for Christ has come!

**God's glory has risen upon us.**

Despite the state of this world:

**Despite illness, despite fear;**

Despite disappointment and injustice;

**Despite sadness and violence;**

Despite grief and despair—

**God's glory is all around.**

Lift up your eyes and look around you:

**See the light of God's hope, the light of God's peace,**

the light of understanding, the light of God's love.

**Let us reach out for the light of God's healing**

**for us, for our nation, for our world.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE **Great is Your Faithfulness** NCH 423

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One: You plant words of peace deep into our hearts; But we often remember only the unkind words of others that continue to wound us. You raise up little children to whisper hope to us; But we allow ourselves to be guided instead by fear for the future.**

**You stand by the side of all who are oppressed; yet we often think we are alone. We are like the man shouting in the synagogue—often driven by doubt and confusion.**

**Lord, teach us how to love again. Remind us that we belong to You and nothing—not even the madness in our world—can separate us from Your grace and love. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

+RESPONSE

**Gloria Patri**

+SHARING THE PEACE

*The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THREE-FOLD AMEN

ANTHEM

*Come As a Little Child*

*Joseph Martin*

Zion Adult and Children's Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Reader: Cindy Braun

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*May God add a blessing to the reading and hearing of the word.*

**Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:21-28

*The word of God for the people of God.*

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

*Too Close for Comfort*

*Pastor Jan*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

**Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+SENDING HYMN

**NCH #524 vss. 1-3**

**This Little Light of Mine**

+BENEDICTION

+RESPONSE

**May the Lord Be Always With You**

+POSTLUDE

