



**Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Worship      Sunday, January 29, 2023**

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

Preacher: Rev. Joel Risser

1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046    717-865-3286    [www.ziongosherts.org](http://www.ziongosherts.org)

\*Please stand if you are able. Congregation, please speak the words in **bold**.

PRELUDE

WELCOME (Ringing of the Bell)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we love God by serving others,

**People: we fulfill the greatest of the commandments.**

L: When we share bread with the hungry poor,

**P: then light shall break forth like the morning.**

L: When we bring in those who are cast out,

**P: then righteousness shall go before us.**

L: When we are foolish to believe that love can save the perishing,

**P: then the message of the cross is being lived and proclaimed.**

L: When we stand on our heads to understand the wisdom of God.

**P: then the poor are raised up, the low ones lifted high.**

L: When we extend mercy.

**P: then we receive mercy.**

L: So, let the one who boasts,

**P: boast in the Lord!**

L: For God is the source of your life, in Christ Jesus.

**P: Let us rejoice and be glad!**

\*OPENING HYMN

*In the Garden*

Hymnal #71

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, We confess that we have turned from your way To follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: **Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Lector: God be with you.    **People: And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE :    Matthew 5: 1-12

HYMN

*I Am Thine, O Lord*

Hymnal #89

SERMON: *The Vision Beautiful*

PRAYERS of the people and pastoral prayer

Pastor: Hear us , O God. **People: Your mercy is great.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come; Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING - GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

With what shall we come before the Lord this day? We come with a love of justice and a passion for sharing Christ's love. Let us walk in humble gratitude, offering to God a portion of the gifts that God freely shares with us, gifts for the healing of the world.

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be:

All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

**We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Blest Be the Tie*

Hymnal #15

BENEDICTION

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine brightly on your path as you walk the way of justice and peace. And the blessing of God—the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life—bless you and keep you always.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE