



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship Sunday, November 13, 2022

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

Preacher: Rev. Joel Risser

1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046 717-865-3286 www.ziongosherts.org

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME (Ringing of the Bell)

A VETERANS PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God invites us to celebrate the return of Christ in glory, when Christ will bring the realm of God into complete and eternal expression.

People: We hear this invitation, but we are so aware of hurt, poverty, fractured community, and violence in the world.

L: Nation rising against nation. Dominion against dominion.

P: Disturbances in nature—earthquakes, tornadoes, and storms, leaving people hungry and homeless.

L: Conflict among the followers of Jesus and religious and political authorities.

P: Conflict within households, even parents, children, and friends turning against one another.

L: Destruction of neighborhoods, leaving people with nowhere to go and few supports for community.

P: Refugees leaving war-torn lands for places of peace and security to re-start their lives and raise their families.

L: "Raise your heads," Jesus says. "Your redemption is drawing near."

P: Jesus is in the world as a restoring presence, wanting to lead us towards a world like the realm of God.

L: We have the opportunity to join him, today.

P: We have the opportunity to say, "Yes. Count me in."

We will use this hour to ponder what we will say.

*OPENING HYMN

God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand

Hymnal #288

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the name of God the Father of glory; In the name of God the Son, our Redeemer; In the name of God the holy and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy, praying for forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, We acknowledge that we are sinners And we confess our sins--Those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, And in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; Liberate us from the bondage of guilt; And work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us And by the light of the Holy Spirit Guides our feet into the way of peace. Amen

SCRIPTURE : Isaiah 65: 17 - 25

SERMON: Infinite Possibilities

HYMN *Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me* Hymnal #350

PRAYERS of the people and pastoral prayer

L: Let us pray. **P: Have mercy, O God.**

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

We have the opportunity to give thanks through our offering of ourselves and our possessions to the work God calls us to do. We cannot repay God for our lives, our minds, the beauty of earth and sky, the abundance of resources that we enjoy. But we can respond with acts of gratitude and kindness, with generosity and thanksgiving.

*DOXOLOGY

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be:

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. AMEN.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

We rejoice, O God, in the new world you are creating around us and within us. We give thanks for the joy we find in the church as we draw water from the wells of salvation. It is our intention to share the joy. To proclaim your Word among all nations, to work quietly and enthusiastically for a world where your love reigns. To these ends, we dedicate our offerings. Amen.

*HYMN *Stand Up for Jesus* Hymnal #365

BENEDICTION

God who loves us, Who gives us eternal consolation and good hope, Comfort your hearts And strengthen them in every good work and word; And the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Be among you and remain with you forever. Amen

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE

Citations for Worship

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