



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Pastor: Bruce Farrell

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

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

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME

The ringing of the bell

*CALL TO WORSHIP

[From Nehemiah 9:5-32, Hebrews 7:2]

Pastor: Stand up and praise the Lord your God, Who is from everlasting to everlasting.

People: Blessed be Your glorious Name. May it be exalted above all blessing and praise.

Pastor: You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, the earth, and all that is on it. You give life to everything.

People: You have kept Your promises because You are righteous.

Pastor: You see suffering and hear our cries. You send signs and wonders. You speak to us.

People: We can be arrogant, stiff-necked – refusing to listen, forgetful of You and Your work.

Pastor: But You are a forgiving and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love.

People: In Your great and gracious mercy, You do not desert or abandon us.

Pastor: You are patient with us. You give Your Holy Spirit to instruct and warn us. You sustain us.

People: We revel in Your great goodness.

Pastor: Now therefore, come to worship our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, Who keeps His covenant of love for whom Jesus Christ has become the guarantor.

*HYMN

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

**¹ Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone.
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.**

**² To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay.
Come with all Your lovingkindness, hear Your people as we pray
and Your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.**

**³ Here bestow on all Your servants what we seek from You to gain.
what we gain from You, forever, with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in Your glory evermore with You to reign.**

**⁴ Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One:
One in might and One in glory while unending ages run!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Let's build something!

SCRIPTURE: Ezra 1:1-5,4:1-5,9:1-6; Nehemiah 5:1-6, 8:1-12, 13:15,19

CONFESSION

Call to Confession:

[Nehemiah 8:18]

They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the Lord their God.

Responsive Confession

[from today's texts]

Pastor: We don't spend hours listening to Your Word.

People: We have conformed to the image of this world.

Pastor: The words and deeds of others discourage and frighten us – tempting us to give up doing Your work.

People: We excessively prioritize building our finances and homes more than Your Church.

Pastor: Our freewill offerings don't reflect the outpouring of Your love.

People: We don't always remember to give to those who have none.

All: We are not particularly "appalled, ashamed and disgraced" at our sin.

Silent confession

Words of Assurance

[Nehemiah 1:8-10]

The Lord said, "If you if you return to Me and obey My commands, I will ... bring you to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for My Name. You have redeemed Your people and Your servants by Your great strength and mighty hand.

SONG

Change My Heart, O God

Chorus: **Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God. May I be like You.**

Verse: **You are the Potter. I am the clay. Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.**

Chorus: **Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God. May I be like You.**

Verse: **You are the Potter. We are the clay. Mold us and make us. This is what we pray.**

Chorus: **Change our hearts, O God. Make them ever true. Change our hearts, O God. May we be like You.**

SERMON: Small Books with Big Messages #4. Ezra & Nehemiah ~ Time to Restore

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[Nehemiah 8:10, 12]

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

PRAYERS for the people and pastoral prayer

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.

ANTHEM

You are Mine
Voices of Zion

*HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

**¹ May the mind of Christ my Savior, live in me from day to day,
by His love and power controlling all I do and say.**

**² May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph only through His power.**

**³ May the peace of God, my Father, rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.**

**⁴ May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting, self abasing - this is victory.**

**⁵ May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.**

BENEDICTION

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

You stirred Ezra and Nehemiah and all those whose hearts You moved to rebuild the temple and the walls. Stir our hearts as well. Give us a passion for building your Kingdom. Point out the work you wish us to do. Give us the confidence that we are "strong in You and Your mighty power". Help us be "an example by doing what is good through our integrity, seriousness, and sound speech". May our lives and efforts bring You all the honor and glory.

Ephesians 6:10. Titus 2:7-8

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