



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship
Sunday, January 17, 2021

Pastor: Bruce Farrell; Rev. Rick Luciotti preaching
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**

[Today's texts, Psalm 139]

Pastor: Come joyfully before Jesus Christ, the only Child of God!

People: You have known us personally from when You knitted us together in our mother's wombs. You love us!

Pastor: Come prayerfully before the Lord!

People: You see our concerns, our fears, our sins. We are not hidden from You.

Pastor: Come hopefully before the Lord!

People: By Your power, You raised Your Son Jesus from the dead and will raise us also. He has proclaimed Your love and forgiveness for all Your people!

Pastor: Know throughout all of your being that God absolutely loves you!

All: How precious and powerful that knowledge is! Thanks be to God for such wondrous love!

***HYMN**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**¹ O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!**

**² My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of Your name.**

**³ Jesus! the Name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.**

**⁴ You break the power of cancelled sin; You set the prisoner free.
Your blood can make the foulest clean; Your blood availed for me.**

**⁵ To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.**

OPENING PASTORAL PRAYER

Awesome God, You knew us before we were born. Open our hearts and our spirits today to hear Your Word for us. And, upon hearing the Word, may we be convinced, as were Phillip, Nathanael and Samuel, of our call to Your ministry and mission. Bless us with Your presence and Your powerful love in Jesus' Name.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Silly ideas

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

CONFESSION

Call to Confession

[Psalm 139:1-4]

You have searched me, Lord, and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue You, Lord, know it completely. Come now in confession of our sins, our times away from the Lord.

Confession

[Today's texts]

We can be like Samuel was at first, not recognizing Your voice calling to us.

We can be rather blasé about Your thoughts; sometimes they are less than precious to us.

We do not always remember that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by You.
Some of us have sinned against our own body, the temple of Your Holy Spirit, by being sexually immoral.
These days we proclaim our right to do anything, forgetting that we are not our own.
We can be deceitful.
Like Nathanael we are quick to scorn and deprecate others: can anything good come from there?
We aren't like Phillip, recognizing Your call, Jesus, and dropping everything to follow You.

Assurance of Pardon

[1 Corinthians 6:14, 19b]

By His power God raised the Lord from the dead and He will raise us also. You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

[1 Samuel 3, Psalm 139:17-18a]

In those days the Word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions... Thank You, Lord, that You speak now. How precious to us are Your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were we to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. Help us listen carefully now to Your Word.

SERMON: One of Us

ANTHEM

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him
Roberto Marti, soloist

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[1 Corinthians 6:19-20a]

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God...

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.**

*HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I Who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

Refrain

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
Who will speak My Word to them? Whom shall I send? [Refrain]**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them; Whom shall I send? [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

Now, sisters and brothers, go into the world, listening for God's call in your lives. Go in the presence of the One Who loved you before you were born, Who still loves you today and into all the tomorrows. Go into the world, ready to follow Jesus Christ, Who will never desert you. Go into the world, sustained by the One Who made you and by the love and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

Martin Luther King, Jr. would have been 92 this week: "Opening our lives to Christ, we become new creatures... Only through an inner spiritual transformation do we gain the strength to fight vigorously the evils of the world in a humble and loving spirit."

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing. Words: Charles Wesley (1739). TUNE: AZMON C.G. Glaser (1828). Public Domain.
Here I Am, Lord. Words and music: Daniel L. Schutte. ©1981, OCP Publications. CCLI Song # 7161376; CCLI License # 2731364

Call to Worship, opening prayer, and benediction adapted from Ministry Matters. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/2225/worship-connection-january-17-2021>