



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship
Sunday, January 24, 2021

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 for worship and in memory of Janet Krause and Dick Wenrich

CALL TO WORSHIP IN SONG

Sanctuary

***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.
Lord, prepare us to be a sanctuary pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, we'll be a living sanctuary for You.***

*CALL TO WORSHIP

[Today's texts and others]

Pastor: Lord, You talk a bit about snow in Your Word. These days do not feel like a lovely, gently falling snow, but more like a never-ending blizzard.

People: **We come now to be encouraged that You, Lord Jesus, are here now and will come again – down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and we will meet You face to face to be with You forever.**

Pastor: We come because we are longing for this heavenly country You are preparing for us.

People: **We come to dedicate ourselves to be more ready to meet You when You come again.**

Pastor: We come to be with You and rejoice that You have prepared good work for us now.

People: **We come to learn how to be ready in season and out of season, so we need not fear the snow and storms in our lives.**

Pastor: In this difficult time, when we need each other so much, but cannot gather in the Sanctuary, still, come worship together, wherever you are, knowing that God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, can hear us all and blends our distant voices into one song of celebration.

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**¹ Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.
Fix in us Your humble dwelling; all Your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, You are all compassion, pure, unbounded love You are.
Visit us with Your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**² Breathe, O breathe Your loving Spirit into every troubled breast.
Let us all in You inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**³ Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more Your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, serve You as Your hosts above,
pray and praise You without ceasing, glory in Your perfect love.**

**⁴ Finish then Your new creation, pure and spotless, gracious Lord.
Let us see Your great salvation perfectly in You restored:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before You, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

OPENING PASTORAL PRAYER

On this chilly winter morning, nestle us into Your warmth, loving God. Through this time of singing, praying, and listening, prepare us to follow You in the week ahead and forever, gracious Jesus. In this gathering, quilt us into a

community which covers and colors Your world with Your kindness and joy, beautiful Holy Spirit. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts show You how much we love and appreciate You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Get Ready

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 31:10, 15b, 17, 21, 25-28; Matthew 25:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:6

CONFESSION IN SONG

Depth of mercy!

[TUNE: *Take My Life and Let It Be*]

**Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare – me, the chief of sinners, spare?**

**I have long withstood Your grace, long provoked You to Your face,
would not hearken to Your calls, grieved You by a thousand falls – grieved You by a thousand falls.**

**I my Master have denied. I afresh have crucified,
oft profaned Your hallowed name, put You to an open shame – put You to an open shame.**

**There for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds and spreads His hands.
God is love! I know, I feel. Jesus weeps and loves me still – Jesus weeps and loves me still.**

**Now incline me to repent, let me now my sins lament,
now my foul revolt deplore, weep, believe, and sin no more – weep, believe, and sin no more.**

SERMON: Snow ~ Living the Prepared Life

ANTHEM

Ain't Got Time to Die
Roberto Marti, soloist

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[Proverbs 31:30, 20]

A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised... She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

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

Lead on, O King Eternal

**¹ Lead on, O King Eternal, the day of march has come.
Henceforth in fields of conquest, Your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation, Your grace has made us strong
and now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.**

**² Lead on, O King Eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease
and holiness shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
with deeds of love and mercy, the heavenly Kingdom comes.**

**³ Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er Your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us. We journey in its light.
The crown awaits the conquest: lead on, O God of might.**

BENEDICTION

[Proverbs 31: 21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Luke 10:42]

Are you prepared for the snow in your life? Are you ready for the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes again from Heaven with a word of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God? Be ready now and then. No matter when, may Jesus, "the one thing needful", fill your lamps, your faith, your lives so you are always prepared.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity,
because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17

Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning...

You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.

Luke 12: 35, 40

Sanctuary. Words and music: John W. Thompson | Randy Scruggs © 1982 Full Armor Publishing Company .CCLI Song # 24140; CCLI License # 2731364

Call to Worship last sentence from: National Worship Team

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/71200/8-November_23-After-pentecost_Remembrance-V2.pdf

Opening prayer: adapted from Reverend Ruth Farrell.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling. Words: Charles Wesley (1747). TUNE: BEECHER John Zundel (1870). Public Domain.

Depth of Mercy. Words Charles Wesley (1740). TUNE HENDON Cesar Malan (1827). Public Domain.

Lead On, O King Eternal. Words: Ernest W. Shurtleff (1887). TUNE LANCASHIRE Henry T. Smart (1836). Public Domain