



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship and New Year's Communion
Sunday, January 3, 2021

Pastor: Bruce Farrell Ministers: All the Faithful Members
1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046
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PRELUDE

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME and Ringing of the Bell
A Note on Communion

CALL TO WORSHIP

[Today's texts, John 6:50; 2 Corinthians 9:15]

Pastor: We, who are looking forward to redemption, come to listen to and marvel at the Words about the only child of God. We come also to Bethlehem, literally "the house of bread", to be fed by You, Bread of Heaven. May this feast, taken in faith, insure a blessed 2021.

People: We come to give You thanks, God, for Your Son, Jesus Christ, a gift too wonderful for words.

Pastor: Come praise and adore the Lord. We have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all peoples – a light for revelation and glory!

HYMN

What Feast of Love

Tune: GREENSLEEVES *What Child is This?*

**¹What feast of love is offered here? What banquet comes from heaven?
What food of everlasting life? What gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King, the Bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

**²What light of truth is offered here? What covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life? What wondrous Word is given?
This, this is Christ the King, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

**³What wine of love is offered here? What crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life? What precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Would you like to be blessed like Jesus was?

PRAYERS for the People and Pastoral Prayer

ANTHEM

The Lord's Prayer
Roberto Marti, Solo

THE SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-40

SERMON: Simeon and Anna bless Jesus

OFFERING

COMMUNION

Invitation

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ, in Whom You have revealed Yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent creation, angels, and humans young and old to bring people to Yourself when You were a baby. In Your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, You have led Your people from far places to Your light.

Call to Confession

The scripture today speaks of purity and consecration. The birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, our Savior, brought to fruition the promise of consolation. When the Lord comes again, He will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of our hearts. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

Confession

We are far from pure so much of the time. We are impatient, not waiting for You for an hour, let alone decades. We don't take time to listen to what the Holy Spirit is revealing to us. We don't seek Your wisdom. We don't work to be strong in You. We can be closed to Your ways, staying steeped in our comfortable traditions. We aren't righteous – doing what You wish, when You wish. We lack dedication to You. Our commitment waivers.

Assurance of Pardon

Recognize and rest in, every day and every minute, as Simeon and Anna did, the salvation and redemption that God sent to them and to us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Declaration of Faith

[Philippians 2]

Though Jesus was divine, He did not cling to equality with God, but made Himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, He was born in human likeness. He humbled Himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God has raised Him on high and given Him the Name above every name: that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Preparation

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread

He is Lord

**He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Sharing of the Wine

O Come Let Us Adore Him

¹ O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

² For You alone are worthy, For You alone are worthy, For You alone are worthy, Christ the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we thank You for feeding us with the body and blood of Your Son Jesus Christ. Through Him we offer You ourselves as a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of Your Holy Spirit to live and work to Your praise and glory.

HYMN

Lord, Dismiss us with Your Blessing

[TUNE: *O How Joyfully*]

¹ Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.

Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

² Thanks we give and adoration for Your gospel's joyful sound.

**May the fruits of Your salvation in our hearts and lives abound –
ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.**

³ Of Your love some gracious token grant us, Lord, before we go.

Bless Your word which has been spoken. Life and peace on all bestow.

O direct us and protect us in the paths we do not know.

⁴ So that when Your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,

let no fear of death appall us, glad Your summons to obey.

May we ever, may we ever reign with You in endless day.

BENEDICTION

May Christ draw you to humility and worship and bring you to see God at work. May the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

To all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem...

**Dismiss [us] in peace for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.**

Luke 2:38, 31-32

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Communion and benediction prayers adapted from: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/new-patterns-24>

Some confession concepts from: <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/christmas-1-or-2-december-27-2020-or-january-3-2021-year-b/>