



# Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship  
Sunday, February 21, 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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Who is this Who enters the doors of our temple? Who overturns the tables, strews silver and gold on the floor, frees the sacrificial doves from cages? Listen, as they rise, the beating of their wings is a song of loud Hosanna.

**People: It is Jesus of Galilee, the Son of God, Who comes to cleanse the great Temple, to restore its subverted chambers to a house of hallowed prayer.**

Pastor: Then, as we begin this season of Lent and always, let us open the doors of our hearts even wider, so He can cast out the thieves who would take what is sacred and tender and make it profane.

**People: May the temple within us be a refuge where doves of peace roost in the rafters.**

Pastor: May it be a garden that bears fruit.

**All: O Lord, take what is corrupt and withered and let it break forth in beauty. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**

\*HYMN

*Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights*

**<sup>1</sup> Throughout these Lenten days and nights, we turn to walk the inward way, where, meeting Christ, our Guide and Light, we live in hope till Easter day.**

**<sup>2</sup> The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God, Who found in weakness greater power, embraces us, though lost and flawed, and leads us to His rising hour.**

**<sup>3</sup> We bear the silence, cross, and pain of human burdens, human strife, while sisters, brothers help sustain our courage till the feast of life.**

**<sup>4</sup> And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on through Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming dawn.**

**<sup>5</sup> So let us choose the path of One Who wore, for us, the crown of thorn, and slept in death, that we might wake to life on Resurrection Morn!**

**<sup>6</sup> Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing and shout hosannas! Raise the strain! For Christ, Whose death Good Friday brings, on Easter day will live again!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Temper, Temper!

SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:12-26

ANTHEM

*The Lord is My Light*  
Roberto Marti, soloist

SERMON: The Way of the Cross ~ Cursing the Fig Tree and Clearing the Temple

CONFESSION

*Call to Confession*

Lent is a time of particular emphasis on reflection, repentance and renewal. Jesus, cleanser of temples and souls, look deep within our hearts and our lives and clear away all that holds us back.

*Responsive Confession*

[Today's texts]

Pastor: Truth be told, Jesus, lots of tables in our lives need to be overturned.

**People: Our leaves are pretty, but we don't produce much fruit.**

Pastor: Beneath the veneer of respectability, the tidy rows and neat regulations, we hide dark addictions, angry judgments, hungry greeds, and heartless rejections.

**People: We, too, have turned Your house of prayer into a marketplace.**

Pastor: The faces of the people here in our church do not resemble all the nations.

**People: We are not amazed at your teaching and our faith is way too small.**

Pastor: We hold things against people and can be unforgiving.

**All: Come Lord, upset, smash, scatter, destroy it all. Radically rearrange the furniture in our temples. In this moment of silence, we sit before You and name those things for which we seek Your cleansing and healing, so that we may be Your more faithful disciples.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

[Romans 5:7-9]

One will hardly die for a righteous person; though perhaps for the good person someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

SONG

*Lamb of God*

**Your only Son no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.**

**Your gift of love they crucified. They laughed and scorned Him as He died.  
The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God.**

*Refrain*

***O Lamb of God, Sweet Lamb of God. I love the Holy Lamb of God.  
O wash me in His precious blood, my Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.***

**I was so lost I should have died but You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God.**

*Refrain and then repeat this last line:*

***O wash me in Your precious blood, my Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.***

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[Mark 11:15a]

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers.

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

*Praise Him! Praise Him!*

**<sup>1</sup> Praise Him, praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail Him, hail Him! Highest archangels in glory! Strength and honor give to His holy name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children. In His arms He carries them all day long.**

*Refrain:*

***Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness. Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song.***

**<sup>2</sup> Praise Him, praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! For our sins, He suffered, and bled, and died.  
He our rock, our hope of eternal salvation, Hail Him, hail Him! Jesus, the crucified.  
Sound His praises, Jesus who bore our sorrows, love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong. [Refrain]**

**<sup>3</sup> Praise Him, praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever! Crown Him, crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!  
Christ is coming, over the world victorious. Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

## NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

### POSTLUDE

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.  
“Truly, I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’  
and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.  
Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”  
Mark 11:22-24

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Call to Worship: adapted partially from Shari Miller Wagner in *Celebrating the Season*. Posted on the website of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.  
Confession: some phrases adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/03/confession-john-2-13-22.html>  
Siddall. *A Prayer of Confession*. Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community. Posted on the Uniting Church SA website  
and <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-overturning-tables.html> van de Laar, John. *Overturning Tables* posted on Sacredise.  
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