



# Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship  
Sunday, February 7, 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

ANTHEM

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
Roberto Marti, soloist

On that day a fountain will be opened ... to cleanse them from sin and impurity. Zechariah 13:1

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

[Today's texts]

Pastor: Come, allow God's never ceasing, unfailing love and mercy to fall on you like a gentle snow.

People: **In Your presence we are refreshed, redeemed.**

Pastor: Come, allow Christ's joy to fill you like happiness fills the hearts of children on a snow day.

People: **In Your presence we can rejoice.**

Pastor: Come, allow the Holy Spirit's cleansing and healing to wash over you so you will be whiter, purer than new fallen snow.

People: **In Your presence we are renewed.**

Pastor: O God, You Who are God our Savior, our tongues will sing of Your righteousness and our lips and mouths will declare Your praise!

\*HYMN

*Christ is God's Never Changing "Yes!"*

**<sup>1</sup> Christ is God's never changing "Yes!" Every one of God's promises is confirmed in the love that died, by the One Who was crucified.**

*Refrain (sing twice): "Yes" from God and then, "Yes" from Christ again! In the Spirit we say, "Amen!"*

**<sup>2</sup> Earth, corrupted by sin and shame, scandalized the Creator's name; now the Spirit of God says "Yes!" Christ has honored God's holiness! [Refrain]**

**<sup>3</sup> Jesus, now, we are called to be "yes" ourselves to Your victory; God anoints us to serve with You; yes, the Spirit will keep us true. [Refrain]**

**<sup>4</sup> Love has conquered, though Jesus died; He is risen and glorified. This is promised and nothing less; all creation will answer, "Yes!" [Refrain]**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: God Made me Washable.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51; Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:13-19\*

\*[verse 16: Leviticus 11:44-45, 20:7, 19:2]

SERMON: Snow ~ Tasting the Holiness of God

CONFESSION

*Call to Confession*

[Today's texts]

Have mercy on me, O God... According to Your unfailing love and great compassion, cleanse me from my sin. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

*Responsive Confession*

[Today's texts]

Pastor: The vast sum of Your thoughts, God, is not always precious to me.

**People: I have not brought my sin, my transgressions before you. I have tried to hide from You.**

Pastor: We think holiness is for religious professionals and superstars, not for us.

**People: You desire my faithfulness to You; I haven't been. You taught me wisdom; I haven't learned.**

Pastor: Though I am not totally ignorant, I still conform to desires other than all the ones You wish to give me.

**People:** I set my heart on things like savings and insurance, not on Your grace.

Pastor: I am often contrite in words alone.

**People:** My mind is not alert and sober.

Pastor: I make sacrifices in the wrong spirit.

**People:** I have drowned out Your joy and gladness.

**All:** I don't really always desire a pure heart and a steadfast spirit – to be white as snow.

*Song*

*Create in Me*

[Reverently, prayerfully; sing twice]

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Your presence, O Lord, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me, the joy of Your salvation and renew a right spirit within me.**

*Unison Prayer*

**Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, so that sinners will turn back to You. O God, You Who are God my Savior, ... my tongue will sing of Your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

[1 Peter 1:18-19]

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life ... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[Psalm 51:19a]

Then You will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous.

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

*Whiter than Snow*

**<sup>1</sup> Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole. I want You forever to ransom my soul.**

**Break down ev'ry idol, cast out ev'ry foe: now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

*Chorus: Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow; now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

**<sup>2</sup> Lord Jesus, look down from Your throne in the skies and help me to make a complete sacrifice.**

**I give up myself and whatever I know. Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. [Chorus]**

**<sup>3</sup> Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat; I wait, blessed Lord, at Your crucified feet.**

**By faith, for my cleansing I see Your blood flow: now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. [Chorus]**

**<sup>4</sup> Lord Jesus, You know I patiently wait. Come now, and within me a new heart create.**

**To those who have sought You, You never said "No:" now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. [Chorus]**

BENEDICTION

[Ephesians 1:17-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:23]

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

God's incomparably great power for us who believe ... is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:20-21

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