



# Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship  
Sunday, April 25, 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 (Ringing of the Bell)

ANTHEM

*How Great is our God*  
Duet: Roberto Marti and Tracy Troup

\*CALL TO WORSHIP [Isaiah 40:26; 1 Chronicles 16:11, 27-28; Psalm 46:1, 59:16, 118:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Micah 3:6; Psalm 28:7]

Pastor: Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? Our God Who brings out the starry host one by one and calls them each by name. Because of Your great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.

**People: Splendor and majesty are before You – strength and joy in Your dwelling place.**

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord, O peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**People: You are our refuge, an ever-present help in trouble.**

Pastor: Sing of the Lord's strength for He is your fortress.

**People: You have become our salvation. You are faithful and will strengthen and protect us from the evil one.**

Pastor: You fill us with the power of Your Spirit, with justice, and with strength.

**People: Our hearts trust in You and leap for joy.**

**All: We will give thanks to You in song.**

\*HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation*

**1 How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2 "Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid.  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow.  
For I will be with you in trouble to bless and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**

**4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
The flame shall not hurt you, I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine.**

**5 "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Asking for Help

CONFESSION

*Call to Confession*

[Psalm 32: 5]

Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found.

*Responsive Confession*

[2 Corinthians 12:1-10]

Pastor: Merciful God, of what do we boast? Can we truly say like Paul that we do not boast about ourselves or our achievements? Do we think we can do anything, or all things – by ourselves?

**People: Forgive us the times when we ignore you, God, and depend on our own strength to do things our own way.**

Pastor: Your Word speak about power being made perfect in weakness.

**People: Forgive us for believing that we have to be hard and domineering if we want to get ahead in life.**

Pastor: Paul boasts of his weaknesses so that the power of Christ may dwell in him.

**People: Forgive us when we use our power selfishly or aggressively, ignoring the indwelling, Christ-given power which frees us to be vulnerable.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

Hear again the good news: Jesus says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." We are forgiven in His name. Receive this grace and rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit to live in His strength.

SONG

*His Strength is Perfect*

His strength is per - fect when our strength is gone.  
He'll car - ry us when we can't car - ry on.  
Raised in his pow - er, the weak be - come strong.  
His strength is per - fect, his strength is per - fect.

*Unison Prayer*

**Permeate our lives with Your grace and Holy Spirit so that we, too, can affirm that we are content with weaknesses for Your sake. Fill us with the knowledge that when we allow ourselves to be empowered by You, we are truly strong.**

SCRIPTURE: Judges 6:33 – 7:8a; 2 Corinthians 12: 1-10

SONG:

Spirit of God, Who Dwells within My Heart

**<sup>1</sup> Spirit of God, Who dwells within my heart, wean it from sin, through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as You are, and make me love You as I ought to love.**

**<sup>2</sup> Did you not bid us love You, God and King; love You with all our heart and strength and mind?  
I see the cross– there teach my heart to cling. O, let me seek You, and O, let me find!**

**<sup>3</sup> Teach me to feel that You are always nigh. Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear –  
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unceasing prayer.**

**<sup>4</sup> Teach me to love You as Your angels love: one holy passion filling all my frame:  
the fullness of the heav'n-descended Dove; my heart an altar, and Your love the flame.**

SERMON: *Echoes of the Holy Spirit* ~ Strength and Weakness

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[Acts 20:35]

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

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

*Holy Spirit*

**Holy Spirit, living breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me. Give me faith for what I cannot see.  
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.**

**Holy Spirit, come abide within. May Your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin in each thought and deed and attitude.  
Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of peace;  
Turn my strivings into works of grace; breath of God show Christ in all I do.**

**Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,  
Show Your power once again on earth. Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise. Lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.**

BENEDICTION

[Ephesians 3:16-21]

I pray that out of [the Father's] glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God... The Spirit helps us in our weakness...  
The Spirit intercedes for [God's people] through wordless groans... in accordance with the will of God.  
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him,  
who have been called according to His purpose.  
[Romans 8:14, 26-28]

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Confession: adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search?q=weakness> ~ written by Moira Laidlaw, on Liturgies Online. <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>  
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