



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship
Sunday, July 11, 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

Ruth Ann Arnold

WELCOME (Ring of the Bell)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

[from today's text and Psalm 147]

Pastor: Come to God's temple, this sanctuary. God says be careful when You enter.

People: Praise the Lord. How good, pleasant, and fitting it is to sing praises to You!

Pastor: You determined the number of the stars and called them each by name.

People: You supply the earth with rain and make grass grow on the hills. You provide food for the animals.

All: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; Your understanding has no limit.

Pastor: You have revealed Your word, Jesus, to Your people.

People: You send Your command to the earth; Your Word runs swiftly.

Pastor: You delight in those who fear You, who put their hope in Your unfailing love.

People: You sustain the humble but cast the wicked to the ground.

All: You heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds.

Pastor: Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God.

People: We extol You, Lord; we praise You, our God.

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

¹ **Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes.**

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise.

² **Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, You rule us in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above; Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

³ **To all, life You give, Lord, to both great and small. In all life You live, Lord, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish, but quickly grow frail. We wither and perish, but You never fail.**

⁴ **Great God of all glory, great God of all light, Your angels adore You, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see the light of Your splendor, Your love's majesty!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Friends

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

CONFESSION

Call to Confession

[Hosea 6:6-7]

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with Me.

Responsive Confession

[Today's texts]

Pastor: We often act as if we know best what we should be and do, rather than turning to You, God.

People: We don't show You the respect You deserve.

Pastor: Our mouths regularly get us into trouble.

People: We make promises that, if we were really honest, we know we can't keep.

Pastor: It seems so much easier to sacrifice our time and money rather than to obey You.

People: We can be glib, hasty, and attention seekers.

Pastor: We desire, toil for, and grasp after so much that is ultimately of no value to us.

People: We have hoarded and watched and guarded our wealth, be it small or large amounts.

Pastor: We have not learned to enjoy what You have given; we crave that illusive thing we don't have.

People: We don't expend effort in being with others, not realizing how much it weakens us.

Pastor: We do not give aid to those who are oppressed, who have been defrauded.

People: Sometimes we don't even see those who are weeping.

Assurance of Pardon

[1 John 1:4-7]

We write these things so that our joy may be made complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to You: God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 4:1-6, 9-12; 5:1-7, 10-17; 6:8-12

A SEASON OF PRAISE

Better Is One Day

¹ How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty. For my soul longs and even faints for You. For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence. I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus ***Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house.***

Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere (than thousands elsewhere). [Repeat]

² One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty, to find You in the place Your glory dwells. One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty, to find You in the place Your glory dwells. [Chorus]

Be Still and Know

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord Who healeth thee. I am the Lord Who healeth thee. I am the Lord Who healeth thee.

More Precious than Silver

**Lord, You are more precious than silver. Lord, You are more costly than gold.
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds and nothing I desire compares with You.**

**I Stand in Awe*

**You are beautiful beyond description, too marvelous for words,
too wonderful for comprehension like nothing ever seen or heard.
Who can grasp Your infinite wisdom? Who can fathom the depth of Your love?
You are beautiful beyond description, majesty enthroned above.**

Chorus **And I stand, I stand in awe of You. I stand, I stand in awe of You.
Holy God to Whom all praise is due, I stand in awe of You.**

The Servant Song

**¹ Will you let me be your servant; let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**² I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**³ When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

Bind us Together

Chorus **Bind us together, Lord. Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord. Bind us together, Lord. Bind us together with love.**

There is only one God. There is only one King. There is only one Body that is why we can sing. [Chorus]

SERMON: Taking Inventory

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[from Ecclesiastes 5:13]

Another tragic thing in this world is when someone hoards his wealth rather than enjoying it.

PRAYERS of the people and pastoral prayer

[Matthew 18:20]

Where two or three gather in My Name, there am I with them.

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

God, the Father of Your People

- ¹ **God, the Father of Your people, You have called us to be one;
Grant us grace to walk together in the joy of Christ, Your Son.
Challenged by Your Word and Spirit, blest with gifts from heav'n above;
As one Body we will serve You and bear witness to Your love.**
- ² **In the garden hear Christ praying, "Father, make My foll'wers one."
Yet, His prayer we are betraying with each person that we shun.
Let our pride and selfish motives bow to pray, "Your will be done"
Till the world shall shout together, "Amen, Amen, Love has won!"**
- ³ **May the grace of Christ, our Savior and the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor rest upon us from above.
May we now remain in union with each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion, joys that earth cannot afford.**

BENEDICTION

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and the POSTLUDE

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