



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship and New Year's Communion
Sunday, January 2, 2022

Pastor: Bruce Farrell Ministers: All the Faithful Members
1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046
717-865-3286 www.ziongosherts.org

PRELUDE

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME and Ringing of the Bell
A Note on Communion

INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

[from today's texts and Psalm 147]

Pastor: Come start this new year by extolling the Lord. Sing for joy. Make your praises heard throughout the earth.

People: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ!

Pastor: No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, Jesus, Who was with God in the beginning and is Himself God.

People: Jesus is the Word Who became flesh and made His dwelling among us. In Him was life and that life was the light of all. He is the true light – overcoming the darkness and bringing new life.

Pastor: We were included in Christ when we heard the message of truth, the gospel of our salvation. We were marked in Christ with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance.

People: You are gathering Your people from the ends of the earth – the blind and the lame, all who struggle, all who labor with new life – a great throng.

Pastor: You heal the brokenhearted. You turn their mourning into gladness. We will all, young and old, dance and be glad.

All: How good it is to sing praises to You, God. How pleasant and fitting to praise You!

*HYMN

Shine, Jesus Shine

¹ Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining.

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth You now bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.

Chorus after each verse: Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

² Lord, I come to Your awesome presence from the shadows into Your radiance.

By the blood I may enter Your brightness. Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me; shine on me.

³ As we gaze on Your kingly brightness so our faces display Your likeness.

Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell Your story. Shine on us; shine on us.

THE BAPTISM of Kelcy Ann and Myla Sue George

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Friends in Jesus

PRAYERS for the People and Pastoral Prayer

THE SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:1-14; John 1:1-18

SERMON: The Same Road

Rev. Rick Luciotti

Representing the Pennsylvania Central Conference of the United Church of Christ

OFFERING

[John 1:6-7]

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Emmanuel, God You are with us in our lonely nights, following distant stars. We are carrying our old years and opening new ones, always hoping to find an oasis and a blessing on earth, in the form of bread in our hands and the cup we lift. May this bread and cup of Yours be so sacred that we never lose the Star's shine, ignore the New Year embedded in every day, or forget the Christ of the dance and the invitation to joy.

Call to Confession

[Jeremiah 31:9; 1 Corinthians 11:27]

The Lord says, "They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's Father." In this new year, come, before we enter God's presence in communion, to confess our sins to our good, good Father Who promises us a level path.

Confession

Pastor: We miss our appointments with You to talk and listen to You in prayer and in Your Word.

People: Sometimes we remain sad, not resting in Your peace, even after You have turned our mourning into gladness.

Pastor: Too little do we sing with joy to You or shout to make our praises heard or dance and be glad.

People: We shy away from being Your witnesses, testifying and proclaiming that You Jesus are the Light, so through You all may believe that You will deliver and redeem us.

Pastor: We do not participate with You in gathering, from the ends of the earth, those who are blind, lame, lost, stumbling and weeping.

The Kyrie

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

[Ephesians 1: 7-8]

In [the Lord Jesus Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us.

Declaration of Faith

[U.C.C. Statement of Faith]

Pastor: We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify.

People: You call the worlds into being, create persons in Your own image and set before each one the ways of life and death.

Pastor: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

People: You judge people and nations by Your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

Pastor: In Jesus Christ, of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Yourself.

People: You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

Pastor: You call us into Your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be Your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the Gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in His passion and victory.

People: You promise to all who trust You forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

All: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto You. Amen.

Preparation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

**Seraphic Hymn*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Sharing of the Bread

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

- ¹ Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending, our full homage to demand.**
- ² King of kings, yet born of Mary, once upon the earth He stood.
Lord of all, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
Christ will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.**
- ³ Rank on rank the host of heaven stream before Him on the way,
as the Light of light descending from the realms of endless day,
vanquishes the powers of evil, clears the gloom of hell away.**
- ⁴ At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"**

Sharing of the Wine

Take me into the Holy of Holies

**Take me in to the Holy of Holies. Take me in by the blood of the Lamb.
So take me in to the Holy of Holies. Take the coal, cleanse my lips. Here I am.**

Holy Ground

[Repeat as needed]

**This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground. For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.
This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground. For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.
We are standing on holy ground and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in His presence on holy ground.**

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, we thank You that when the star in the sky is gone, the sages are home, the shepherds are back with their flocks, and we are tempted to pack Your birth story away with our ornaments, this very Bread and Cup gives us the hope and courage to begin the true work of Christmas. Help us to proclaim Your Good News to all – to bring to You the lost, the broken, the hungry, the prisoner – to be Your ambassadors of healing, provision, release, reconciliation and peace so that all may dance with gladness in Your love.

HYMN

You are My Vision

- ¹ You are my Vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me, save that You are –
You're my best thought, by day or by night; waking or sleeping, Your presence my light.**
- ² You are my Wisdom; You are my true Word, I ever with You and You with me, Lord;
You're my great Father, I'm Your true heir; You in me dwelling and I in Your care.**
- ³ You are my battle-shield, sword for the fight. You are my dignity. You're my delight.
You're my soul's shelter and You're my high tower. Come raise me heavenward, O power of my power.**
- ⁴ Riches I need not nor all the world's praise, You're my inheritance now and always;
You, and You only, first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure You are!**
- ⁵ High King of heaven, when victory's won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.
Heart of our own heart, whatever befall, still be our Vision, O Ruler of all.**

NEW YEAR UNISON PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

I am no longer my own, but Yours.

**Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low for You.
Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal.

**And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and the POSTLUDE

Citations 2022.1.2

Shine, Jesus Shine. Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 30426.

United Church Statement of Faith. <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-believe/worship/statement-of-faith/>

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence. Greek text: "Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn" Liturgy of St. James. c. 275 AD. Paraphraser: Gerald Moultrie (1864).
TUNE: PICARDY French folksong *Chansons Populaires des Provinces de France* (1860). Publ. Dom.

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Communion invitation and Prayer of Thanksgiving adapted from Howard Thurman *The Work of Christmas*.
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Wesley Covenant. John Wesley adapted 1755 from Richard Alleine c.1630 <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/the-wesley-covenant-prayer-and-the-baptismal-covenant>

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