



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

Preacher: Rev. Joel Risser

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

WELCOME (Ringing of the Bell)

*OPENING HYMN

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Hymnal #354

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

People: O God, you know!

L: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

P: O God, you know!

L: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

P: God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

L: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

P: And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Revitalizing God, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us. We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death, not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives. Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience. Forgive us for wanting to limit you to "the last day" or "the world beyond this one", not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, through us. Forgive us, and open our eyes to the wonder of new life sprouting into being in our very midst.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Come out," Jesus calls, and his word unbinds us from the oppressive weight of our past and pushes away the rocks that close us off from love. We are made free in the spirit of God, and forgiven all our sins. **P: May God's name always be praised from our lips!**

PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Lector: God be with you. **People: And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE: John 11: 1-45

SERMON: Lazarus, come out!

HYMN

In the Cross of Christ

Hymnal #351

PRAYERS of the people and pastoral prayer

Leader: Hear us, O God. **People: Your mercy is great.**

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.

OFFERING - GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

Like Lazarus we awake from sleep at the sound of Jesus' voice. Like Lazarus, we have a new life in front of us a resurrection life not meant to be hoarded, but to be shared. Like Lazarus, we live in a state of thanksgiving for all that has been and hope for what is to be. Like Lazarus, we have been given a gift that is meant for all. So let us make our offerings at this altar, and pray that the wind of God may breathe upon all that lives upon the earth.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be:

All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our tithes and offerings and our investment of time and energy in tasks to which you call us. All this we offer now for your blessing, for apart from you, the light goes out of our lives and we slip into meaningless existence. Let us, rather, dwell with you and serve you wherever we go. Amen.

*HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal

Hymnal #390

BENEDICTION

L: We are freed from all that has bound us. The Spirit sends us out in trust and joy.

P: The Spirit dwells in us and empowers us. The light of Christ will show us the way

L: As you walk in the light, you will not stumble. With trust in God, you will live, even in death.

P: God is attentive to our prayers. We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace.

L: Go out to proclaim God's freeing love. Spread a word of hope to all who are in distress.

P: With God, there is great power to redeem. We eagerly share God's steadfast love. Amen

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE