



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship
Sunday, May 15, 2022

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

Guest Preacher: Mark Stauffer

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)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Arise, people of God, to greet the one who calls us; come alive to the Spirit's energy among us.

P: God awakens us and restores our souls. Surely God's goodness and mercy are with us here.

L: The shepherd is calling us to new ventures. We are invited to a higher quality of life.

P: We will not fear to walk through shadowed valleys. God's love in Christ is with us everywhere.

L: Come to drink from springs of living water. Gather to find comfort and blessing here.

P: Surely God will guide our search for truth. We seek eternal values within our daily walks.

INVOCATION

Draw us together, Eternal One, from paths of aimless wandering. Lead us today toward the community you intend. Draw the fragments of our lives together into some meaningful whole. Help us deal with present concerns in constructive ways yet point us beyond ourselves to engage with you in larger issues. Help us feel the hunger and thirst of others; then lead your church to make a caring response. May your love fill us and overflow into other lives. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Rock of Ages

Hymnal #412

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

How often it is winter in our lives. The good we would do seems frozen within us, and our faith is cold and sluggish. A voice calls us to believe and to care, to confess our doubts and awaken the potential within us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we look at events around us and cannot perceive you within them. We shed tears and find no comfort. We listen for your voice and are greeted by silence. The world seems full of enemies waiting to devour us. On every hand, there are problems too complicated for us to solve. We live in fear rather than faith. We cry out to you for answers. O God, do you hear us? Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the silence, there is presence too deep for words. The works of God surround us even now, bearing witness to an unseen hand. Multitudes of people from every nation and time join in chorus: "Salvation belongs to our God!" The shepherd will guide us to springs of living water, and our tears will be wiped away. We are freed to live boldly and courageously, through Christ!

Special Music

Open My Eyes, That I May See

John Moyer & Mark Stauffer

SCRIPTURE:

II Timothy: 3

SERMON:

The Power of the Gospel

OFFERING

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

Surely the goodness of God overflows in our lives. Take time to count your blessings. The works of God are all around us. In these moments, we have the opportunity to offer ourselves and our substance to extend God's work on earth.

*OFFERTORY

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be:

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. AMEN.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Make these moments a feast of dedication to your purposes among us, loving God. May we serve you night and day, wherever we are, in all we do. Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

PRAYERS of 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

Nothing But the Blood

Hymnal #425

BENEDICTION

L: Go forward from this place as praying, caring people. Let good works & charity abound.

P: We believe God calls us to make a difference. God wants us to change the world.

L: Your deeds bear witness to God's love. Others will believe because of your faith.

P: We trust the shepherd to lead and guide us. We look to God for the strength we need.

L: Surely goodness and mercy will follow us. Our eternal home is part of us right now.

P: God's salvation has come to us. Alleluia! We will praise and honor our God forever and ever.

All: AMEN.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE