



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship

Sunday, June 19, 2022

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

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME (Ringing of the Bell)

*OPENING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all you whose souls thirst for the living God.

People: We come in search of help and hope.

L: Come, you who are acquainted with grief or oppression.

P: We come bearing our doubts, our wounds, and our fears.

L: Come, you who are in need of good news.

P: We come in search of joy, truth, and light.

L: Come and find refuge in God your rock.

P: Let us again praise the One who is our help and our hope.

INVOCATION

O God, you come to us not in the chaos of the whirlwind, not in the roar of the earthquake, not in the crackling heat of the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. Quiet our minds, bring peace to our hearts and stillness to our bodies that we might meet you in that silence. Help us to listen for your still, small voice. Give us the courage to go wherever you lead us, trusting that you will prepare the way. We pray this in the name of our Companion on the journey, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we often find ourselves distracted by a legion of destructive voices that make false promises. Surely these are our inner demons: Let us confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We believe safety and security can reside in ample bank accounts.

We think that success leads to real happiness.

We equate power with dominating others.

We hold fast to pain and anger as if they were treasure in a chest.

We soothe our fear of failure with substances that do harm.

We feed our hunger for love and approval with food that does not satisfy.

Break hold of the chains that bind us, O God.

Set us free from the tombs in which we dwell.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear this good news: In Christ God calls us forth from the tomb to the light of new life. The healing power of God's forgiveness restores us to wholeness. God releases us from the chains that bind us. We are set free to be children of God!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Luke 8:26-39

SERMON: A Demon Named Legion

HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Hymnal #26

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.

OFFERING

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

Jesus told the man he had healed to go home and tell everyone how much God had done for him. What if we were to look at our offering as a way to proclaim how much God has done for us? What if we were to share with the same kind of generous love that God abundantly shares with us?

*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**

Loving God, we share what we have because you share so abundantly with us. May our sharing be an act of thanksgiving and praise for all you have done and all you will continue to do for us. We dedicate these gifts and offer ourselves to your service. Bless us and our gifts, that we might be a source of help, hope, and joy to a world in need. With grateful hearts we pray, Amen.

***HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Hymnal # 400

BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world with hope,
for no chain can bind and no tomb can contain the healing life Christ offers each of us.

Go and make room for quiet, still places amidst the chaos of everyday life,
for there we will find God.

Go and dare to proclaim all that God has done for you,
for there are many who need our good news.

Go, knowing that the light of God shall lead you, the presence of Christ shall guide you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit shall uphold you, this day and always.
Amen.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE

Citations for Worship

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