



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ
Worship Sunday, July 17, 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)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is in our midst! How will you bid him welcome?

People: We will throw open the doors to our hearts. We will delight in his presence.

L: When God shows up, surprising things can happen.

P: We will make ourselves ready.

We will lay down our burdens and set aside our distractions.

L: Here we receive good news: Nothing is too wonderful for God!

P: So let us laugh and sing, rest and listen, dance and praise— Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Hymnal #336

INVOCATION

Wonderful, surprising God, you bring us hope when we are discouraged, peace when we are anxious, and joy when we are least expecting it. Help us, now, to rest in your presence. Be our welcome Guest not only here but everywhere we go this week. Show us how to receive all that you have to offer us. May we remain open even to what seems too incredible to be true, for with you, so much more is possible than we even imagine. We pray this in the name of your most Glorious Impossible, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious, inviting God, you continually provide us with opportunities to practice generous hospitality. But our fear of difference, reluctance to share, and desire to be in control make our welcome appear weak and insincere. Because we long for what is familiar and comfortable, we have difficulty honoring the stranger as a sacred guest who bears the face of Christ. Worn out and irritated by the work we think we must do, we miss opportunities to receive the gifts that such guests offer us. Forgive us, O God, for focusing on the wrong things. Show us how to do what is right.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Psalmist declares that those who speak the truth from their heart will abide in God's sanctuary. God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts.

Now let the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness flow through you. May the abundance of God's mercy and grace set you free to serve God with love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Luke 10:38-42

SERMON: Martha, Martha, Martha!

HYMN

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting yielding and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today!
White than snow, Lord, wash me just now, as in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power all power surely is thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

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

Amazing things can happen when we share. When three strange guests showed up outside Abraham and Sarah's tent, they rushed to create a fine feast of the best they had to offer. They did this having no idea that their guests would give them an astonishing gift of great joy. Let us make our offering an abundant feast of the finest gifts we have to share. Perhaps we also will be joyfully surprised by what God has in store for 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

Generous God, we share what we have because we wish to serve you with the best we have to offer. Bless our tithes and offerings that they may become a bountiful feast for all who need to be filled with good things. Open our eyes to see the strangers you call us to welcome. Empower us to receive them as you do, with radically inclusive hospitality. May we recognize and delight in the gifts they share with us. Amen.

*HYMN

God Will Take Care of You

Hymnal # 233

BENEDICTION

Go out into the world to serve God with love. Be ready to laugh with delight at the good news God has to offer you. Make room at your table for unexpected guests. When the work of discipleship leaves you weary or frustrated, rest in Christ's presence and listen to what he is saying.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, go with you today and always. Amen.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE

Citations for Worship

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