

WELCOME TO
Old Zionsville United Church of Christ
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Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

April 14, 2022

7:30p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

You Are Blessed. Regardless.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: During the season of Lent, we focused on growing gardens, tending the life that is right in front of us, rather than constantly climbing ladders of what this world defines as success. We have been embracing "good enough" lives and "good enough" selves that are worthy of love, no matter what. In our worship this evening commemorating the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples, we see a supper in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what "blessing" really means, *regardless*.

Prayer of Invocation (Based on Psalm 116)

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Holy One, You who lay a table of blessing before us, you have heard us and have come to us. We lift up the cup of salvation in praise, we break open and share our love. Open us this night to your presence in our gardens of delight and sorrow-in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This" (verses 1 & 3) p.314

Call to Confession

Leader: The mid-20th century brought a particular shift as televangelists began to speak of blessing as a "pact" with God in which our good works (mostly our good wallets) would multiply the prosperity in our lives. But for Jesus, this moment in the Upper Room was full of trouble, danger, deception, and uncertainty. Surely Jesus, Son of God, had enough blessing capital to out-manuever this set of circumstances! In the midst of the pain of his moment,

Jesus defines the real blessing pact—washing feet, breaking the bread, lifting the cup, sharing even with those who are about to betray him. In this moment of silence, take in this graceful invitation of Jesus to the table, no matter what.

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear this compassionate word: Love that cannot be quantified reminds us that each and every person is blessed, always, regardless of who we are, how we've failed, or what we've accomplished.

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from never feeling good enough for all the blessings of life and faith, inviting us to love and to bless in the same way—indiscriminately, extravagantly.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture: Matthew 5:1-11

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Reflection: Thoughts About an Imperfect Life and Faith

"We are blessed, regardless"

A Blessing for When You Don't Feel Blessed

Blessed am I when I lose sleep over what troubles me. When my worries keep me watching the clock tick by. When I have no energy to do anything but fret. The kingdom of God is here and now.

Blessed am I when I am drowning in grief. When wave after wave after wave crashes over me. When I start to feel okay, then something reminds me of what I've lost, and I'm pulled under once again. God promises to comfort me.

Blessed am I when I feel silenced and afraid to speak up. When I am forgotten and left out. When I feel small and feel as though my work, my presence, my life doesn't matter. The whole world is mine.

Blessed am I when I am starving for justice. When the world around me feels so unfair that I could scream, but no one seems to be listening. No one seems to care. May justice flow like a river.

Blessed am I when someone hurts me, when I feel offended, and I don't return insult with insult. Instead, I forgive, recognizing the number of times I've needed to be forgiven.

Blessed am I when I strip away all the extra. When I see the world as it really is—broken, tender, fragile, beautiful. These are the same eyes that see God in everything too.

Blessed am I when I take the hard road. The winding one that doesn't opt for the shortcut of rage or resentment or unkind words. That doesn't pave over with trite niceties, but walks toward peacemaking. For I am God's kid.

Blessed am I when I face hardships of all sorts. Insults, hurt feelings, lies, and vindictive neighbors (why is loving your *actual* neighbor so hard, God?).

Blessed am I when I work to usher in God's kingdom of love and compassion and justice and forgiveness and peace, even when it's hard.

Blessed are we. The imperfect and don't-have-it-all- together. God's beloved.

*Hymn: "In Remembrance" (all verses) p.461

Second Reading of Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, **4** got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. **5** Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." **8** Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." **9** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" **10** Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." **11** For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." **12** After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had

returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? **13** You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. **14** So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. **16** Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. **17** If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. **32** If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. **33** Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' **34** I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Service of Holy Communion

The Holy Living God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, anytime and everywhere to give thanks to you. You created this world full of so much beauty and sorrow and called it Good. And called it Enough.

Although we feel lost at times, you are ever present. We doubt, resist, turn away, and rage, insistent on our own power to pull us through, and yet sure that we are to blame, making life seem like a confusing paradox.

But you are patient. You are here to meet us—reside with us in strange and alienating times, always faithful, always present in this Body.

And so, together we proclaim the praise-filled truth of your glory along with all the saints:

Holy, holy, God of Hosts!

Heav'n and earth sing out your name!

Blest are they who come today;

and take their place.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He proclaimed freedom for the bound, justice for the oppressed, grace for the lost, love for the prodigal.

Through the life and ministry of Jesus, we can imagine and live into a community where all who struggle are taken into loving arms and those who struggle to love are invited into greater compassion.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so,

We remember...

We offer ourselves...

We proclaim God's time...

**Christ has died, yet Christ is ris'n;
Christ will come once again!
We remember and proclaim
redeeming love.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us blessing for our days, love for simple and ordinary lives, fuel for justice in this world.

By your Spirit open us to each other. Open us to the world, making us one in you, through Christ, in the power of your amazing grace!

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy 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. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, for ever. Amen.**

Sharing of the Communion

Third Reading of Scripture: The Garden Vigil – Luke 22:39-53

Leader: You are invited to stay as long as you wish and leave in silence after our final reading from the Gospel of Luke:

39 He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. **40** When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." **41** Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, **42** "Father, if you are willing,

remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” **43** Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. **44** In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. **45** When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, **46** and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” **47** While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; **48** but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?” **49** When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” **50** Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. **51** But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. **52** Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? **53** When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”

(the people stay and pray and leave in silence as they wish)



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RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs.

We have Bulletin Magnifier Sheets if needed. They can be found on the sound system.

Mask Wearing - Consistory has agreed that individuals can make their own decision as to the wearing of masks during church services. If you find yourself testing positive for COVID, **please contact the church office** so we can alert others who may have been in contact with you during time spent at church. Thank you.

Our **Good Friday** Service of Darkness will be tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m.
April 17–**Easter Sunday**–7:30 & 10:15 Worship; 9am Light Treats; 9:30am Egg Hunt

Prayer List

Christoph Shirley Barbara & Leon Holly Rob Chris Monica Jim Casey Joe
Connor Keith Shirley & Kelly Ukrainian People & all affected by the conflict Molter Family
Shaw Family Gehring Family Diane Martucci Family Linda Stephen Sylvester
Davis Family Phyllis Arlene Bob Ann Michael Donna Troy Greg Jeffrey
Family of Hal Strobel Family Curtis Whitcomb Family Harrison Family

Military

Drew Stahler Chad Kichline Nate Yeakel Chanellor Yenser All Military Personnel