

WELCOME TO
Old Zionsville United Church of Christ
5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net Web page: www.oldzionsucc.org

Church Office: 610-966-3601

Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

April 15, 2022

7:30 p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Good Friday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Some days are just lousy and that doesn't even begin to cover it. The first recorded use of "guode friday" was in the South English Legendary, a text from 1290. Calling a day "good" was a way to denote a time of holy observance. What if even our lousiest days could be experienced as a holy observance of the reality that this IS life? Perhaps the "good news" in the midst of devastation is that God is buried with us in our deepest pain, wrapping us, holding us until we can move through that birth canal once again into renewed life.

Prayer of Invocation (Based on Psalm 22)

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Holy One, Trusted Guide of our ancestors, at times we feel forsaken. You took us from the womb and laid us in the safety of loving arms, and yet life has thrown us again and again into the loss of connection. Gardens of joy grow silent with grief. Be with us this night as we mourn what cannot be. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?" (verses 1 & 2) p.306

Reflection: Thoughts About an Imperfect Life and Faith

"Even today, God is here and somehow, that is good enough"

A Tenebrae Presentation ("Shadow" or "Darkness") John 18:12-19:42

Leader: Last night in our Maundy Thursday service, we gathered with Jesus in the Upper Room. There is only one other place in the Gospels where the

Greek word used to describe the Upper Room was also repeated—the place, the room where Jesus was born. Two places where the dark birthed something new... the dark womb and the dark tomb. Tonight we continue the story that began last night in a tradition of “tenebrae” or “darkness,” descending with Jesus into the depths of our own stories of grief, disappointment, and betrayal.

Wrapped in Cloths of Care

Leader: And so we find ourselves in another garden, a place of burial. I invite you to write a word or phrase of something in your life that you mourn on your piece of cloth that you’ve been given and then wrap that around your wrist to wear out into the night. Perhaps even until Easter morning. In this way we draw in another bookend in this story... the swaddling clothes that wrapped Jesus at his birth and the linen burial cloths in the story of his death. Indeed, in the silence of the garden, the shadows of the tomb, the depths of our grief, remember that in the midst of devastation, God is buried with us in our deepest pain, wrapping us, holding us until we can move through that birth canal once again into renewed life. After the music and blessing, you are invited to leave in silence.

*Hymn: “Were You There?” (verses 1 & 3)

p.315

- 1) Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? O!
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- 3) Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? O!
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

A Blessing for When You Mourn What Could Have Been

Blessed are you, friend, sitting among the shards of what could have been. It is broken now, that dream you loved, and it has spilled out all over the ground. *Blessed are you*, dear one, letting your eyes look around and remember all the hope your dream once contained. All the love. All the beauty. *Blessed are you*, telling your tears they can flow. Telling your anger it can speak. *Blessed are you* when mourning is the holy work of the moment, for it speaks of what is real. *Blessed are you*, letting this loss speak all its terrible truth to your soul.

Blessed are we who mourn, saying let us remain in grief’s cold winter for as long as it takes, that mourning might be to our hearts the gentlest springtime. Let the thaw come slowly, so we can bear the pain of it and find comfort at each release. *Amen.*

[the people leave in silence]



All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough. Used and adapted with permission.

"Mourning A Future Self" devotion and "A Blessing for When You Mourn What Could Have Been" from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book at www.katebowler.com/goodenough.

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.

Easter, April 17 - Easter Services - 7:30 and 10:15am. Light treats served at 9:00am. Egg Hunt for the children at 9:30am. Come and celebrate and bring your friends.

Windows To The Future - Running low on windows note cards? You're in luck because we are having a half-price Spring Sale. Five cards are now just \$5. They are available in the Upper Social Hall where you will also find the quilt auction entry box. Be sure to drop off your sealed bid for the quilt during April.

GriefShare – Join us on Wednesdays for our GriefShare sessions in the lower social hall at **6:30 p.m.** This group is open to anyone who wishes to explore the program and/or work to heal. You may join in anytime. We will meet each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. until June 1. There is no cost for the program but a suggested donation of \$15.00 (or whatever you can afford to pay) for the workbook. Please register with Pastor Lori, call or text at 610-393-3522.

Prayer List

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

Military

Drew Stahler Chad Kichline Nate Yeakel Chanellor Yenser
All Military Personnel Worldwide