

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 3, 2022

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

We Are Fragile

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of relationship even to the last. In this fifth week of the Lent season, we will hear a story of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table. As we will see, Jesus tries to prepare his beloved companions for his death. Talk of death is like a gut-punch to many of us; we would rather believe we and our loved ones are invincible, are able to will ourselves into being strong. We all know that isn't always how the story goes. We are fragile. Our lives, like the plants in the gardens we tend, are susceptible to elemental dangers and a life-cycle of letting go in order to live.

Prayer of Invocation (Based on Psalm 126)

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Holy One, Lover of Souls, we call out to you.

You know our tears and sorrows, and you bear the seeds of grief with us. Open us this day to your comfort that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy—the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

p.676

(verses 1 & 2)

Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. "Oh, don't say that," so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ's vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga.

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.**

Choir Anthem

Scripture Reading: John 12:1-8

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **2** There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. **3** Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about

to betray him), said, **5** "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"

6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) **7** Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. **8** You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

*Hymn: "We'll Understand It Better By and By" p.771
(verse 1)

Reflection: Thoughts About an Imperfect Life and Faith
"We are Fragile"

Prayers of the People

Leader: Fragility is not only OK, it is also necessary. To know and respect our own limited nature, our vulnerability to the forces of life, we are able to see and be with those who are hurting. We enter our prayers for all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit—vowing to tend with care to those for whom deaths, of many kinds, seem near.

The Pastoral Prayer....The Lord's Prayer

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.

*Doxology (sung in unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow,
Praise Three-in-One, from here below.**

*A Blessing for When You're in Grief

"Blessed are you, dear, dear one, doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered. Of grieving what has been lost. Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known. This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around you, a force field of different realities separating you. Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen by God who breathes

compassion upon you, even now. Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you, gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not alone."

*Closing Hymn: "Be Still, My Soul" (all verses) p.712

*Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the grief-stricken parts, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude



All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee

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"A Blessing for When You are in Grief" 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.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by James and Patti Mittl in memory of Julia Yeakel.

TODAY'S BULLETIN is sponsored by Lee and Susan Hoch in memory of loved ones.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Nancy Civitts.

TODAY'S GREETER is Ruth Stansfield.

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.

Reminder for those that have tickets - **Tonight** at 7:00 p.m. is our trip to see **Riverdance** at the State Theatre in Easton.

The last Community **Lent Service** will be at 7:30pm on Thursday, April 7 in our Church.

There is also a service being planned for during the **daytime on Maudy Thursday, April 14 at 12 noon at Upper Milford Mennonite Church.**

Services at Old Zionsville UCC for Holy Week will be as follows:

Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion

Good Friday, 7:30 p.m. Service of Darkness

Easter Morning: 7:30 a.m. Celebration of the Light!

9:00 a.m. Light Treats

9:30 a.m. Egg Hunt for Children

10:15 a.m. Easter Communion

FULL size toiletries (*not travel size*) are due next Sunday, April 10 for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry. A collection box is located on the bench in front of Pastor Lori's office. The following is what is needed: **Items in bold are needed the most**

shampoo	toothbrushes
conditioner	soap (bars and/or liquid)
deodorant	body lotion
toothpaste	tissues
disposable razors	mouthwash
feminine hygiene products	
shaving cream (mens and womens)	

GriefShare – Join us on Wednesday, **April 6, 2022** 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. for 13 weeks 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.

Our next **Supper Club** will be Friday, April 8th at 5:30 p.m. at Fairgrounds Hotel, 448 N. 17th Street in Allentown. Please RSVP no later than Monday, April 4th. April **Lunch Bunch** will be Friday, April 22nd at 12 noon at The Brass Rail, 3015 Lehigh Street, Allentown. Please RSVP no later than Monday, April 18th. These get togethers are for all members of OZUCC. Please let Linda or Mark Weaver know if you are able to attend by email at catofpa@ptd.net or weavermj@ptd.net, call at 215-679-7599 or let them know when you see them in church.

We are so fortunate to have beautiful **Altar Flowers** either silk or real each week. Thank you to everyone who contributes that gift to our worship experience. Each week after worship someone needs to remove the flowers from the altar and make sure they get to their sponsors or to another location based on the wishes of the giver. We have missed Darlene Schmeltzle in coordinating this part of our Altar Guild's ministry. Would you be willing to stay after worship for the Sundays of one month to help in this ministry? The instructions

are easy to follow and you can certainly ask someone else to help if you need to be away. Thank you for prayerfully considering this ministry. Here is the list of current helpers we have. If you see an empty space, will you help us? Also, if you are on this list and would prefer to be removed, please let me know. Thanks in advance for your help in BEING THE CHURCH. Pastor Lori

January: Open	July: Open
February: Cheryl Martucci	August: Open
March: Susan Jacobs	September: Diane Berger
April: Open	October: Patti Mittl
May: Brenda Shoemaker	November: Jane Bedell
June: Brenda Shoemaker	December: Carolyn Rhoads

Prayer List

Christoph Shirley Barbara & Leon Holly Rob Chester
Monica Jim Alan Casey Connor Keith Shirley & Kelly
Ukrainian People & all affected by the conflict Rob Lois
Molter Family Shaw Family Gehring Family Diane Joe

Military

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

Week of April 3-April 9, 2022:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.
Other times by appointment

Church Secretary: Brenda Seitz, hours Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

Boy Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

GriefShare – Wednesday @ 6:30pm

Lent Service – Thursday @ 7:30pm at Lutheran Church

Choir Rehearsal – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Supper Club – Friday @ 5:30pm at Fairgrounds Hotel

Next Sunday – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

Total Offerings from March 27:

General Offerings: \$1,428.00

Mission: \$20.00

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$280.00

Windows to the Future: \$115.00

Electric: \$25.00

Communion: \$25.00

Cemetery: \$70.00

Parking Lot: \$0

Attendance: 56