

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

May 8, 2022

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Believe God

Festival of the Christian Home

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: We gather once more as a great multitude from various peoples and places, we've come

All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving honor and power be to our God

One: We gather once more to shout "Alleluia!" Salvation belongs to the Holy One.

All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving honor and power be to our God

One: We gather to worship day and night the one who guides us to the springs of life.

All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving honor and power be to our God

Prayer of Invocation

One: God, our shepherd—Restorer of our souls—the one who calls us to nap in green pastures—we enter into this moment of worshipful gathering trusting that you will guide us along the paths of righteousness.

All: Wherever we may be in this world, let us know the comforting presence of your rod and staff.

One: We are expectant, O God, that our fears will fade, that our cups will overflow, and that your goodness and

mercy will accompany us in this hour and beyond. Now, let us worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" p.688
(verses 1, 2 & 4)

Invitation to Confession

One: God, as you call us more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence, Let us acknowledge the ways our unbelief has separated us from your vision for our lives and all creation.

Moment of silence

One: God, we confess that we often let hopelessness have too much power over our lives.

All: In the face of crisis, our faith has frequently faltered. In the midst of calamity, our fearlessness has faded. In the presence of tribulation, our worry has weakened our ability to act justly. Help our unbelief, O God! Bring us back to you, Great Redeemer. Remind us of the unfailing treasure that is in your love and care for all of creation—for your grace is sufficient, from the valley of death to the tables you've prepared for us. Embolden us, again, and revive our spirits.

Words of Assurance

Friends, hear the Good News: God believes in us even when our belief in God is challenged. God's grace and mercy abounds, and in God and Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Scripture: Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; **3** he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Reflection

*Hymn: "Let There Be Praise" (both verses) p.211

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Offering

We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

Sharing of our Gifts

*The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a sign of our belief in the God who saves, heals, and sets free. Let these gifts, and the works of our hands and feet, be a blessing to all in need.

Pastoral Prayer...The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

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.

*Closing Hymn: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" p.355
(all verses)

*Benediction

Let us go forth knowing that we are led by God, that we are sheltered by God, that God never leaves nor forsakes us even in the bleakest valley. In God, may we hunger and thirst no more, and may a peace that surpasses all understanding abide with us, now and forever more. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude



Believe God Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter was written by Rev. Mia M. McClain, Associate Minister at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC and a member of the Southern Conference UCC.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS given by William Yeakel in memory of his wife, Julia.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Jen and Todd Goudsward in memory of Merle and Carl Lorish.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Lee Hoch.

TODAY'S GREETER is Chris Schell.

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.

Today is our collection for **Phoebe Ministries**. Thank you for your contributions.



Each week after worship someone needs to remove the flowers from the altar and make sure they get to their sponsors. Would you be willing to do this for us on a Sunday every now and then to help in this ministry? Thanks in advance for your help in BEING THE CHURCH. Pastor Lori

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 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.

Lunch Bunch will be held on Friday, May 20 at 12:00 noon at Hamilton Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark by Monday, May 16.

Join Salem United Methodist Church for an intimate visit with **Daryl Mosley**, Grand Ole Opry veteran, storyteller and 2-time songwriter of the year as he shares songs and stories of his life, career and faith. He will be at their pavilion on June 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! We are excited to have as worship leader and preacher on Sunday, July 24 at 9:30 a.m. Worship, The Rev. Denise Dorman Fry. Bring your family and friends to give her a warm OZ Welcome!

Week of May 8-14, 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
FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm
GriefShare – Wednesday @ 6:30pm
Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm
Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School
9:00am New Members Class
10:15am Worship

Total Offerings from May 1:

General Offerings: \$1,663.00
Mission: \$4.00
Windows to the Future: \$970.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$25.00
Church Grass: \$25.00
Communion: \$78.00
Cemetery: \$100.00
Attendance: 38