

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

January 1, 2023

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

First Sunday After Christmas
“Love and Mercy”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: The rhythms of life praise the Everlasting God through the markings of time.

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: The flowers, land, and trees praise the Divine Gardener through rest and renewal.

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: Living creatures praise the Spirit of God through our breathing, living and being. Praise God!

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

You make us a community. You gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kindom. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “Majesty”

p.10

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Eternal God, the dawn of a new year prompts us to reflect on our past and hope for our future.

Many: Help us live every day seeking your way and moving on your path. Help us commit to love and resolve to extend the grace and mercy we need from you and our neighbor. Make us new. Amen.

Words of Grace

The God who counts our days knows us intimately, loves us abundantly, and abides with us relentlessly. Receive the brand new mercies of this day. Hold the love of God closely, firmly, and freely. Transformation, grace, and new life is assured this day.

*Hymn: "Amazing Grace" (all verses)

p.343

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

The Escape to Egypt

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **14** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

The Massacre of the Infants

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. **17** Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: **18** "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The Return from Egypt

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, **20** "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." **21** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. **23** There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Reflection – 250th Anniversary of "Amazing Grace"

Special Music: "Koyal Tarog/As the Deer" by Caleb-Hunter Buck
(English and Hebrew)

*The Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

p.19

*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

Invitation to Generosity

Let us put our trust in the Living God, who is faithful. Let us praise God for the abundance of creation in the sharing of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

*Presentation of Our Gifts and 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 and Thanksgiving (unison)

Generous Love, bless these offerings. Stir up the gifts within for your glory, show your provision through the sharing of our resources, and empower us to steward our days as precious and holy. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (all verses) p.258

*Benediction

One: May we remember the magnificent acts of the Holy One. May we proclaim the wondrous ways of our God.

Many: May love be our compass and mercy our guide.

One: Go into the world as kinfolk of the Christ who trust in the faithfulness of the One who calls, who comes, and who companions with us. Go in peace. Go for peace. Amen.

*The Sung Benediction

**The Lord Whom we love, Whom we worship and Adore,
We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us
Together And He it is who sends us apart. To be God's people, be
God's people. Amen.**

Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude



Love and Mercy: Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Christmas was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are from Ben Kohler in memory of his Grandparents, Kenny and Sarah Lorish and Emil and Ginny Kohler.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Paula Lilly in honor of her Children and Grandchildren.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Les and Deb Schoenberger.

TODAY'S ACOLYTE

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

Windows to the Future - The 2022 Matching Gift Challenge was a success, raising over \$8,000 for the Windows Fund. The year ends with a fund balance that allows us to begin Phase 3 of the project, beginning with restoration of the nativity window stained glass. Work on the twin windows and protective glass on the three windows will be on hold until additional funds are raised. Please keep the continued success of the project in your prayers.

Supper Club - Our program for the first part of 2023 will be entitled "Passport to Dining around the World". We will be "traveling" around the world to try some new cuisines and have some familiar fare, too! You will be issued a "Passport" at the first restaurant you attend and will then be given a sticker at each venue attended. Prizes will be awarded to those who travel all the way around the world with us (6 venues - January to June). The next country or region we will visit will be revealed as we go at each successive event.

The first stop on our journey will be Asia. Friday, January 6, 2023, 6:00 PM (RSVP no later than Monday 1/2) A-1 Japanese Steak House (Hibachi/Teppanyaki) 3300 Lehigh St., Allentown, PA 18103 (at South Mall).

The next country or region we will visit will be revealed that evening, but you can mark your calendars for Friday, February 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Sunday Brunchers - Sunday, January 15, 2023, Noon (RSVP no later than Monday 1/9) Mercantile Club (Cash Only), 427 Railroad St, Emmaus, PA 18049.

Lunch Bunch - Friday, January 27, 2023, Noon (RSVP no later than Monday 1/23) Trivet, location to be determined at a later date.

Week of January 1-7, 2023:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary: Brenda Seitz will be in the office Mon-Thurs. 10am-3pm

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

ATF Sorting – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Sound and IT – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Supper Club – Friday @ 6:00pm at A-1 Japanese Steak House

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School and Confirmation

10:15am Worship, Baptism

11:30am-2:00pm Confirmands and Mentors

Total Offerings from December 24th – 3pm Service:

General Offerings: \$2,290.00

Windows to the Future: \$275.00

Mission: \$25.00

Attendance: 73

Total Offerings from December 24th – 7:30pm Service

General Offerings: \$1,291.00

Windows to the Future: \$120.00

Attendance: 75

Total Offerings from December 25th

General Offerings: \$1,363.00

Mission: \$120.00

Heat: \$20.00

Windows to the Future: \$405.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$60.00

Cemetery: \$40.00

Attendance: 20

History of "Amazing Grace"

Sung an estimated 10 million times each year, "Amazing Grace" marks its 250th anniversary today. It was born not of American Black spirituals as some believe, but across the Atlantic, in the tiny English market town of Olney, some 60 miles north of London, with lyrics older than the Declaration of Independence.

When asked why the song has proved so enduring, music journalist Steve Turner (author of "Amazing Grace: The Story of America's Most Beloved Song"), said, "*I was lost and now I'm found, I was blind and now I see* – I mean, it's an experience most people can relate to."

Those words are life reflections of John Newton, a slave trader who nearly died in a shipwreck, and who eventually became a minister. He penned the famous words of "Amazing Grace" for a sermon for his 1773 New Year's service at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. But the tune wouldn't be written for another half-century.

No one tune was consistently linked to "Amazing Grace," until 1835, when an American Baptist, William Walker, published "The Southern Harmony" hymn book with a song, at the time, titled "New Britain."

"It caught the imagination of America," said Turner. "'Amazing Grace' is, in a sense, the story of starting this new life and going through toils and snares."