

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 2, 2023

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Sixth Sunday in Lent
"Open the Gates"

Prelude: "Hosanna! Christ Is King!"

Livingston

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

"Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord" will be on the screen during the lighting of the candles (sing along as you feel comfortable)

Call to Worship

Lecturn Side: Open the gates, for on this side of Jerusalem, a grand parade of Rome brings the pomp and circumstance of power and prestige to the streets for the Passover Feast.

Pulpit Side: Open the gates, for on the other side of Jerusalem, a humble procession enters the city among the lives of the Jewish poor and marginalized.

Lecturn Side: (Facing left and stomping together) Entering through the gates, we ride in on horses with the powerful armor of Rome, bind the festal procession with power. Let the feast begin!

Pulpit Side: (Facing right and waving palms) Entering through the gates, Jesus comes riding on a donkey and the crowd binds the festal procession by laying down palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!"

All: (Waving branches) Open to us the gates of God and together we will proclaim, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!"

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and

his followers into Jerusalem today, open the gates of our hearts that we might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (all vs) p.297

Prayer of Confession

One: O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbor with our whole lives. At times we can enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, or a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbor.

All: Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements or our obsession with seeking the approval of others. Come and save us now. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

One: The good news of God this day is this: This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. For on this day, God has entered into our lives with love and compassion for all who surrender and lay down their lives in Christ. Friends, you are loved. You are embraced. You are forgiven. Amen.

All: We give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, and God's love endures forever. Amen and Amen!

*Hymn: "The Palms" See insert

(We will do the palm parade around the Sanctuary with the singing of this hymn. From your pew, enter the exterior aisle and proceed to walk around the Sanctuary in a counter clockwise motion on full time returning to your seat.)

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. **20** This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. **21** I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. **22** The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. **23** This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! **26** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. **27** The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. **28** You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. **29** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Offering

Kindred, God is good, and God's steadfast love endures forever and ever. Because of God's enduring love, we cherish and give thanks for every good gift in our lives. Today, on this day God has made, we come to share out of the abundance of God's love and light among us so that the world may know this boundless love that knows no end.

Offertory: "Behold, the King Rides Forth"

Paxton

* Presentation of the Offering 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 (unison)

O God of Welcome and Waving Palms, as the crowd offered to you their praise and the palms on the road, so we share these gifts out of the abundance you have provided. May they be for the healing salvation and work of justice you are bringing about in the world through your unending love. Amen and Amen.

Choir Anthem: "Praise and Exaltation"

Pethel

*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

*Closing Hymn: "All Glory, Laud and Honor" (all vs.) p.300

*Benediction

Lecturn Side: (Turning from the front to the back) Having entered through the gates in power and prestige, this Jesus has called us to go out in love, compassion, and humility.

Pulpit Side: (Turning from the front to the back) Having entered through the gates on donkeys and waving palms, this Jesus has come to save and now calls us to go out in hope, justice, and love.

All: Together, we are embraced by an enduring and boundless love that forges us together in shouts of "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!"

Pastor: Friends, Go forth humbly to serve the God whose love endures forever. Go forth in the name of the Christ who entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey. Go forth in the strength of the Holy Spirit, that calls us to rejoice in this very day God has made. God's love endures forever.

All: God's love endures forever. Amen!

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Fling Wide the Gates" Stainer



Open the Gates: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday was written by the Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, the Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ who resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of Julia Yeakel from Mr. and Mrs. James Mittl.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are in memory of Colby Hoch from Uncle Lee, Aunt Susie and cousins Lance and Sarah.

TODAY'S GREETER is Larry Stahler.

TODAY'S ACOLYTE is Piper Miller.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Mark Weaver.

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.

Maundy Thursday Worship at our Church with communion beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Cross Walk for Good Friday – At 2:00 p.m. we will meet at Upper Milford Mennonite Church to “carry the cross” to Old Zionsville UCC where we will have a brief worship service until 3 p.m. If you just wish to join us for the Worship Service at OZUCC, plan to arrive at our church around 2:20 p.m. This event happens rain or shine, so dress accordingly. A car will follow us in case you want to begin the walk and can't complete the journey. This is a confirmation activity and we will be joined by the students at Zions Evangelical Lutheran Church too. For more information please speak with Lori Esslinger.

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service of Darkness Worship at our Church.

On Easter Sunday, The whole Ministerium is invited to celebrate with us at the **7:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Worship Service at Old Zionsville UCC** which includes communion for all. **Continental Breakfast** in the Lower Social Hall will start around **8:30 a.m.** when we conclude worship. Sunday School and Confirmation will start at 9 a.m. on Easter Sunday. **Egg Hunt** on Easter morning will start at **9:30 a.m.** in the lower social hall. **All Children are Welcome** for the Egg Hunt which is for infants through 5th grade. We will have two age groups hunting separately so all can enjoy the hunting. Come to church that morning for this festive tradition and meet up with other parents enjoying this holiday at the church.

GriefShare – is meeting from 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays until May 30, 2023 in our downstairs social room. There is a cost of \$15.00 for the workbook but scholarship money is available. The lessons are taught through interesting videos and can help us all as we grow in Christ. Please register with Pastor Lori at momandpastortoo@yahoo.com or call/text to 610-393-3522. You may join in at anytime. This group is open to all!



Supper Club will be Friday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. at Ruffino's Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria, 5840 Chestnut St, Zionsville. **Please RSVP no later than Sunday, April 9.** Linda or Mark Weaver. The next **Brunch** will be after Worship on Sunday, April 23 at the Merc (Cash Only).



Friends & Family Spring Fling, Saturday, April 15 with a catered buffet dinner at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed by Marian & Friends, Ventriloquist. Fun for all ages!! Make your reservations today! See Jan Strobel after Worship. Adults - \$20.00; Children ages 6-12 - \$10.00; Children ages 2-5 - \$5.00; Children under 2 are free.

New Member Classes will be held on Sunday, April 30, 9:00-10:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour and the same time on Sunday, May 7, 2023. We will receive new members on Sunday, May 14 during the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service – The Festival of the Christian Home. Please speak with Pastor Lori (610-393-3522 call or text) ahead of these dates so we can make sure the table is big enough to gather around. We will meet in the Upper Social Room. There is no obligation to join upon completion of the classes. You can certainly just join the classes to learn or refresh your understanding of the United Church of Christ OR meet some of our new people.

The United Church of Christ is always responsive to disasters both here and globally. If you wish to donate money to the Earthquake recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria, 100% of your donation will go to aid relief. Make your check payable to Old Zionsville UCC and clearly mark it for **Disaster Relief**. Thank you.

Week of April 2 – April 8, 2023:

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

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours for this week: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am-3pm
(please call before coming)

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

ATF Sort and Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

GriefShare – Tuesday @ 1pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Maudy Thursday Worship @ 7:30pm

Cross Walk – Friday @ 2pm at Upper Milford Mennonite Church

Good Friday Worship @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 7:30am Communion Worship

8:30am Continental Breakfast

9:00am Sunday School and Confirmation

9:30am Egg Hunt

10:15am Communion Worship

Total Offerings from March 26, 2023:

General Offerings: \$1,994.00

Mission: \$10.00

Communion: \$25.00

Window to the Future: \$100.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$90.00

Attendance: 64

THE PALMS

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Arr. by C. H. G.

1. O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay Are strewn this day in festival
2. His word goes forth, and people by its might Once more their freedom gain from
3. Sing and re-joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem, Of all thy songs sing the e-

prep - a - ra - tion, Where Je - sus comes, to wipe our tears a - way;
deg - ra - da - tion; Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right,
man - ci - pa - tion; Thro' bound-less love, the Christ of Beth - le - hem

RESPONSE

E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare. Join, sing His name di-vine,
While those in darkness find restored the light.
Brings forth the hope to thee for-ev-er-more. Join all, and sing Ho-san - nal

Let ev-'ry voice resound with u - nit - ed ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho-san - -
Praised be the

nal Praised be the Lord, Bless Him who cometh to bring us sal - va - tion.
Lord, Ho-san - - nal!