

**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 9, 2023

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Easter Sunday**  
**"Toward the Tomb"**

Prelude: "On the First Day of the Week"

Smith

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks to our Good God whose unfailing love lasts forever!

**All: Give thanks to our Risen God whose unfailing love lives forever!**

One: We gather together in the dawn of a new day. We look toward the tomb  
to seek the Enfleshed Word.

**All: The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty! Alleluia!**

One: We find God alive in the searching, in the garden, in our hope-filled  
spaces.

**All: Alleluia. Christ lives and finds us with unfailing love!**

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

**Resurrected God, you are the God of new beginnings, of new dawns  
and new mercies. Enter into our presence again. When we move  
toward the tomb, remind us that you come with life. When we despair  
at the world unfolding around us, assure us of your redemptive  
power. When we long for your voice, speak a word of hope,  
encouragement, and peace. May we reflect your image as resurrection  
people in covenant with you. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Amazing God, we know there is nothing you cannot overcome. We  
confess to our profound need of your love, strength, and mercy.

**All: Too often, we come toward the tomb resigned to the status quo.**

**We anticipate the worst even when you are the provider of every good and perfect thing. We allow despair over the condition of our world overwhelm us when you call us to follow you. Fortify us to live abundantly in your kingdom on earth. Transform us and breathe new life into us. Amen.**

#### Words of Grace

The One who transformed death can and will certainly transform our lives. Jesus welcomes us on the journey to new life. No matter how many times our steps stray, we hide from hard things, or we betray the good news, God's grace meets us with an unfailing love to guide us on the path of life abundant and everlasting. Receive the resurrection power of the One who was and is and is to come.

\*Hymn: "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

p.365

#### Scripture: John 20:1-18

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. **2** So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." **3** Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7** and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, **9** for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to their homes. **11** But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, **12** and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. **13** They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." **14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). **17** Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say

to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " **18** Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Choir Anthems: "On the Third Day" and "We Bow Down" Pethel

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

Colossians 3:1-2 states, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." In the giving of our gifts, we seek the kingdom, we trust in the Provider, and we follow in the way of Jesus.

Offertory: "Thine Is the Glory" Handel

\* Presentation of the Gifts and 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)

**Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us.  
May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for  
your glory. Amen.**

\*The Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of Holy Communion p. 1 in Communion Booklet

\*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**

\*Closing Hymn: "Because He Lives" p.358

\*Benediction

One: Like the disciples on the day of Resurrection, may we go toward the Tomb, a place seemingly devoid of life

**All: May we find life in all its glory and spread the news that life prevails, that life redeems and that love never fails.**

One: Go in peace with resurrection purpose to love God, God's children, and God's creation. 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: "Day of Triumph"

Broughton



**Toward the Tomb: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday** was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Dolly Kichline's mother, Marie Bonner's Birthday from Dolly, Chad and Samuel.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Wendy Yeakel.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are members of Consistory.

**TODAY'S ACOLYTE** is Jacob French.

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.

**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 any time. 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 by TODAY** to Linda or Mark Weaver. The next **Sunday Brunchers** will be after Worship on Sunday, April 23 at the Merc (Cash Only). **Lunch Bunch** will meet at 12 noon on Friday, April 28 at the Perkins Restaurant on Lehigh Street in Emmaus. These events are open to everyone wishing to join us for good food and conversation.

**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.

**Week of April 9 – April 15, 2023:**

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

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm

(please call before coming)

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

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

GriefShare – Tuesday @ 1pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Supper Club – Friday @ 6pm – Ruffino’s Italian Kitchen

Spring Fling – Saturday @ 5pm – Lower Social Hall

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School and Confirmation  
9:45am Third Sunday Treats  
10:15am Holy Humor Sunday Worship,  
Loose offering goes to our Pastor’s  
Discretionary Fund

**Total Offerings from April 2, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$2,105.00  
Mission: \$60.00  
One Great Hour of Sharing: \$94.00  
Communion: \$60.00  
Windows to the Future: \$235.00  
Building Repair Fund: \$60.00  
Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00  
Cemetery: \$90.00  
Attendance: 70