

**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

July 2, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**The Prophetic**

Prelude:        "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: O Sing to God a song of joy,

**Many: For we have been greeted by our God.**

One: O Dance for God a waltz of welcome,

**Many: For we have been embraced by our God.**

One: O Create for God a portrait of hope,

**Many: For we have been inspired by our God.**

Invocation (unison)

**You patiently wait for us on the threshold of your Realm, ready to welcome us as we step across the doorway of your Kin-dom. As we see your inviting lights, we feel the warmth of your love. May we open doors to your Realm. May we be your encouraging embrace and your melodic voice of welcome in a world filled with harsh tones. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn:        "Ye Servants of God"

p.38

Prayer of Reflection and Transformation

One: Holy Prophet, Divine Warmth, Creating a home for strangers and friends can often take extra effort. From the extra cleaning to food preparations, we spend extra time, talents, and treasures to care for your children. Sometimes, we often do not feel as if we have the energy to go the extra distance – to ensure the drinks are cold and our homes are cozy.

**Many: Give us an extra boost in our bodies, minds, and souls to be the**

**welcome team in your Realm. May we embrace divine hospitality as we care for the ones struggling the most, the ones caring for your creation, and the ones speaking prophetically for you. Amen.**

Words of Grace and Love

God continues to welcome us into the Divine Realm even when we walk past its doorway. God's magnificent grace will refresh our hearts, inspiring us to return again. Amen.

\*Hymn: "Grace Greater than Our Sin"

p.344

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." **2** He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." **3** So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. **4** On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. **5** Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." **6** Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. **7** Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" **8** Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together. **9** When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. **10** Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. **11** But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." **12** He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." **13** And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

The Realm of God asks for us to care for our neighbors: from the children who

are thirsty to the prophets and other caregivers who need a place to rest. This is our opportunity to use our treasures, talents, and time to ensure all have what they need. May we reflect on the ways we can share and give as we are able.

Offertory: "This Is My Country"

\* 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.**

\*Blessing of the Gifts (unison)

**Spirit of God, When we share from our souls, we open our hearts to your works in this world. When we tend to our neighbors who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst. When we welcome the prophet who shares your love through their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout our world. When we share with a stranger, we experience Divine joy as our reward for giving. Bless all gifts as they build your Realm here on earth. Amen.**

Special Music

The Pastoral Prayer

A Prayer for General Synod

God of small sanctuaries and large halls, We listen and look for your presence immediately surrounding us, energizing us to serve the world outside. And today we know that many of our neighbors and friends are gathering in Indianapolis for General Synod as they celebrate faith, reflect on your calling, seek justice and kindness, and inhale the invigorating breath of the Spirit. We pray for their wisdom, Holy One. May your wisdom carry them from one moment to the next as they search for the depths of your love. We pray for their endurance, Loving Spirit. Throughout the long days of Synod, may they find rest and renewal, moments of hopeful silence and joyous laughter. We pray for their strength, Divine Redeemer. May your courage permeate their hearts as they speak and vote, and may your Holy Curiosity open their souls to new stories. May each of us be willing to open our souls to new words, new sounds, new stories, and new songs. Your Kin-dom can be found from the conversation between two people drinking coffee to the most distant of galaxies across the universe. May we see how to serve the Church and your children within the walls of our individual sanctuaries to the streets surrounding us to the farthest spaces in our world. Amen.

The Service of Holy Communion (see insert)

\*Closing Hymn: "America, the Beautiful"

p.799

\*Benediction

One: May the Spirit of God lead us to build God's realm on this earth

**Many: So all will have the most refreshing water to drink,**

One: So all will have a warm space to rest at the end of long days,

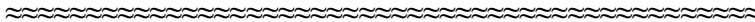
**Many: So all will know the joy of your Kin-dom. Amen.**

\*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: "Hold Strong the Fight for Freedom"



*The Prophetic: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and General Synod @Home* was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Mike and Diane Berger.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Millie Kohler.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs. Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.

Our church is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. You provide your own headphones which can be connected to the transmitter which will allow you to more clearly hear the Worship Service or any program being offered in the Sanctuary. See anyone at the sound booth to inquire.



**Help is needed as follows:** Monday, July 3 for sorting and getting ready for next giveaway. If you would like to help that day come anytime, we will be at the Church by 10:00 a.m. Set up on Saturday, July 8 from about 10 - 12 noon, Lower Social Hall. Give Away on Monday, July 10 from 4 - 6 p.m. Give away on Saturday, July 15 from about 10 - 1 p.m. (includes clean up time). We will also be sorting and storing on Mondays, July 24 and 31 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church.

Another **Pretzel Sale** on Sunday, July 23!! Pretzels will be sold after Worship for \$2.00 each.

**CAR WASH!!!!** On Saturday, July 29 between 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. come get your dirty car washed by our Confirmation Students in our Church parking lot between the Parsonage and the Church. You will also be able to get a hot dog (or more), a soft pretzel plus dessert while you are here! All proceeds will go into our General Fund.

Kids, get ready for **Vacation Bible School**, coming **July 31—August 4 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**. at Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie! Pirates will be running around as we learn and play with our "Shipwrecked" theme. It will all happen on a deserted island where we learn that Jesus takes care of us wherever we are. Parents and guardians - pick up registration forms at church, or go to their website [gracemacungie.org](http://gracemacungie.org) and click on "classes and interest groups", you will see the link for VBS. Turn completed forms into the church office, or drop them in the mail. Get ready to have a good time with some old and new friends at Shipwrecked!

**Week of July 2-July 8, 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)

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

ATF Set Up – Saturday @ 10am

**Next Sunday** – 9:30am Worship

**Total Offerings from June 18, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$1,671.50

Windows Fund: \$140.00

Disaster Relief: \$15.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$25.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 45

# Communion Liturgy for General Synod 34 and GS@Home

## Invitation

One: The Spirit of Creation is with you!

**Many: And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.**

One: Open wide your souls.

**Many: We open them to the Creator's love.**

One: Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.

**Many: With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we  
exclaim to God our praise.**

## Prayer of Communion

One: We delight with our Holy God on this earth, and we rejoice forever in what God has created, is creating, and will be created. The Spirit of Creation built this vast universe, including our beautiful, strong, and fragile planet. The earth held the plants and animals in the Garden of Eden. Later, the earth carried the Israelites on their wilderness journey and while they danced joyously in the promised land. The earth absorbed the tears of Job, supported the steps of the prophesying Elijah, and carried David in the shadow-filled valleys. Jesus taught on mountains and plains, walked throughout the land healing the aching, and prayed in gardens late at night. In times of exile and times of return, the land held the stories of our ancestors in faith.

**Many: Today, we abide on this earth in houses of worship, in homes,  
and in halls. We know this land we share today is sacred. It bears  
much fruit. It holds the flora of friendships. And deep within its  
cells are the stories of its ancestors – parents, guardians, and leaders  
of the faith. We know their footprints are still felt by the earth.**

One: And we remember the ones who held this land as their own centuries ago. They were the first to tend to the land, to nurture it as a parent would nurture their child. The winds of occupation seared the land and crushed the hearts and lives of its first inhabitants. Through the hydrating tears of our God, the land remembered its strength from its ancestors. In our spaces today, we remember their place on the land and their care for creation.

**Many: From the strength of those who have gone before comes the  
seeds for grains and grapes. The land has given birth to the fruits  
of our sacrament.**

One: With glory to our God, we praise the Spirit of Creation:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Spirit of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, Heaven and  
Earth delights in your glory, Hosanna, Hosanna. Blessed is the one  
who brings love and light to our world. Hosanna to our God. Alleluia!**

One: On the night before Jesus walked the ground carrying the tree to Golgotha, he gathered with faithful friends. From the grain in the ground came the bread that Jesus took and broke in his hand. He blessed the bread and said to his friends "This is my body broken for you. When you eat this bread, remember me." And then after supper, Jesus took a cup filled with the fruit of the vine. Knowing they were all connected like the vine and branches, Jesus said to them "This cup is the new covenant (in my blood). As you drink from the cup, remember me."

**Many: Spirit of God, just as you hovered over creation and renewed your church at Pentecost, surround these elements. Encircle us, energize our souls, and connect us with each living being here on earth. Just as you have delighted in humans since creation, may your presence create joy in our spirits, transforming us into new beings.**

One: Bless the soil that birthed the grains and grapes that we share today. May these elements be transformed into a meal that connects us all. Like the lion and ox, like the lamb and wolf, we eat together – whether near or far, whether well or ill, whether marginalized or privileged. May this meal be one in which we embrace the power we have and strengthen the world with justice and peace, kindness and love. Amen.

\*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**

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Holy God, Divine Designer-With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.**