

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 9, 2023

9:30 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
“The Weary”

Prelude: “The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Irvine

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: O Spirit of the First Song, the Origins of a Lullaby, we come here today with our burdens in tow.

Many: Would you grant us a comfort, O Gentle Jesus? Our pain has no place to land, no cradle for our sorrows to rock in.

One: And say to us: *Yes, let it out. I’ve got you now. There, there, dear child, there, there.*

Many: *There, there, to the rhythm of a heartbeat, like a grandmother consoling her kin. There, there.*

One: *There, there, like the psalmist singing in satisfaction. It’s alright now. We made it home. There, there.*

Many: *There, there, shouts the activist out in the streets. That’s enough now, never again. There, there.*

One: For you are here, right here, ever with us—burden-sharer, light-maker, right here.

Many: And it is from this ancient hum that we worship you.

One: It is from this rest that we know you.

Many: It is from such a place that we praise you, right here, again. Amen.

Invocation (unison)

O God of Heaven and Earth, who is glorified in the wisdom of children—the experts of presence and oneness. May we evoke your humble heart within us. May we wonder what it might mean to feel

our exhaustion *and* your love, at the exact same time. May we consider all you've tried to show, give, or say to us that we weren't yet ready for. Prepare our souls to yoke with yours, to share in the Good News that revives every living thing. We ask this in your name and energy, Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Here I Am, Lord"

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Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Spirit of God, you are always among us, and yet at times we don't notice or get caught up in our judgments.

Many: Not recognizing you in the stranger on the street or the stranger in me—who does not do the things I want, but rather the things I hate.

One: Perhaps we thought our certainty would keep us safe or ignorance would keep us pain-free, but you show us the way of trust and awareness is what paves the path of peace.

Many: Forgive and help us, O God, by the power grace and connection. Amen.

Words of Grace

No matter the weight of our burdens or the age of our weariness, let us come before our rest-giving God. Rest for our shame and unbelief. Rest for our bootstraps, egos, and false idols. Rest to open us up to grace that says, *I feel so much better since I laid my burdens down.* Rest for the receptivity to our yes. Yes to forgiveness, yes to repair, and yes to being fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen

*Hymn: "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

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Scriptures: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. **35** The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. **36** And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. **37** My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, **38** but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

42 "I came today to the spring and said, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! **43** I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,"

44 and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let

her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.

45 "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' **46** She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. **47** Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. **48** Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. **49** Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.

58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." **59** So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. **60** And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." **61** Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way. **62** Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. **63** Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. **64** And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel **65** and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. **66** And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. **67** Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Reflection

Special Music: Reba McEntire with The Isaacs "It Is Well With My Soul"

Invitation to Generosity

Our God plays the flute for us. Do we not hear it? Shall we not respond with a dance? Shall we not come to each other with thanksgiving, and in turn share the gifts that we have? How might we be abundant? And in what ways are we still in need? Let us bring it all as an offering, through our faith and humanity. Amen.

Offertory: "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Hustad

*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)

What weighs us down doesn't just disappear in the wind, but rather lightens because the load is shared. So, God of Our Yoke, may we prosper in solidarity. May what feels hard, be the "right" kind of hard—one that strengthens us in growth and connection. Let the cycle of suffering finally have its last day, and the Year of Jubilee begin with us. Amen.

*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: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

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*Benediction

One: O God of Rejuvenation, may we leave this place feeling alive, awake, and made for this day.

Many: In you there is hope for satisfaction, while our hunger for justice remains everlasting.

One: May we find strength in gentleness and relief to heavy loads.

Many: And may we carry your promise of refuge with us wherever we go. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "The Solid Rock"

Bradbury

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**The Weary: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by The Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry serves as the Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development for the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Learn more at [chhsm.org](http://chhsm.org).

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Robin Yoder.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Lee Hoch.

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** for our ATF Give Away tomorrow, 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.

**Next Sunday** we will be taking a Joyful Noise Collection during Worship. This offering will go to Lancaster Theological Seminary.

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

**Confirmation Class Serves the Lord!** Fellowship fun after church on Sunday, July 30. Instead of the car wash originally scheduled, we will have hot dogs, baked goods/desserts and soft pretzels for sale. We will meet downstairs in the air-conditioned social hall to raise money for the general fund.

**Calling** all bakers/dessert makers – Could you please make something for the confirmation sale after Worship on Sunday, July 30? Bring to Worship and plan to stay to see what others have made.

**Zionsville Area Food Pantry** is in need of boxes of Macaroni and Cheese and canned pasta meals, any variety. Thank You.

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 9-July 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)

ATF Give Away – Monday, 4-6pm

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

ATF Give Away – Saturday, 10am-12pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:30am Worship, Joyful Noise Collection  
Brunch at the Mercantile in Emmaus

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

General Offerings: \$1,728.00

Windows Fund: \$191.00

Mission: \$30.00

Communion: \$21.00

Electric: \$45.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 43