

**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

March 10, 2024

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**So Loved**

Prelude:        "My Redeemer"

McGranahan

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: Beloved in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?

**All: We come to celebrate the love of God in the form of Jesus Christ.**

One: This love reaches through the shadows of our lives to embrace us.

Our challenge is to trust the light of God's love in the midst of our struggles.

**All: We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.**

One: If only we will trust, Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.

**All: We come to celebrate our God who loved and loves us so much!**

\*Opening Hymn:        "We Have Come to Join in Worship"

p.207

Prayer of Reconciliation

One: O God of Comfort and God of Challenge, we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did, full of complaints and dissatisfaction. Nothing is enough; we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

**All: Forgive us.**

One: In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites, to consider the bigger picture of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us.

**All: Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us; Lift up loving and compassionate leaders to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.**

## Assurance of Blessing

You are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of you.  
So return God's blessing by the way you love others. Amen.

\*Hymn: "O Zion, Haste" p.443

Scripture: John 3:14-21 p.924

## Reflection

\*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:**

**God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.**

**God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.**

**God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.**

## Offering Invitation

Consider the steadfast love of God in every breath you breathe. May that steadfast love inspire you to give generously so that we may live into God's Reign of peace and compassion through the offerings of our own church.

Offertory: "O Divine Redeemer" Gounod

\* Presentation of Gifts, OGHS Gifts and Singing of the 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.**

\*Offertory Prayer (unison)

**O Generous One, we give thanks to you for your steadfast love endures forever. May these gifts be used to feed the hunger and satisfy the thirst of all those you love throughout your creation. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

\*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: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" p.431

\*Benediction

One: Let us rejoice: God so loves the world! May God your Maker send you back into the world with creative energies refreshed.

**All: May Christ the Light illuminate your fearful moments.**

One: And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love guide you until we worship together again. This day and forevermore. Amen!

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "Marche Sombre" Beethoven

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**So Loved: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Lent** was written by the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister for Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC.

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**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Howard Lilly given by Paula Lilly.

**TODAY'S BULLETINS** are in memory of Paul J. Christman sponsored by Paula Lilly.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Nancy Weitzel.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Alyson Miller.

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.

**March Soup and Sandwich sale orders are due TODAY. Pick up will be on Thursday, March 21 from 3-5:30 p.m.**

**One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS) offering will be collected in Worship **TODAY**.

The **All Things Free Room** (ATF) could use donations of cloth Christmas Tablecloths, especially red and green for future Christmas table displays. Donations of any unwanted Christmas gifts received that we can use as gifts for our clients at next year's Christmas Giveaway are also needed. The next Giveaway will be tomorrow, March 11 from 4-6 p.m. and on Saturday, March 16 from 10a.m.-12p.m. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. Please call Millie at 610-737-9432 with any questions.

**Brunch** will be Sunday, March 17, 12 noon at the Mercantile Club (cash only) in Emmaus. Please let Mark or Linda know if you can make it by Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome! The next **Lunch Bunch** will be on Friday, March 22 at 12 noon. Meet at Vince's Pizza in Macungie, RSVP by Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday Morning Adult Book Study** during Lent for the Ministerium Churches is being held on Sundays from 9-9:45 a.m. at Upper Milford Mennonite Church or you can join the Lutherans here at Old Zionsville UCC at 9:00 a.m. and participate by zoom. The following is the zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81615791018?pwd=WU9JbkE4RE52b3Z0dmxvT0gva2ZXdz09#success>

**Sunday, March 24** will be the last Adult Book Study with the Lutherans and Mennonites on Zoom. Our Conference Minister The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates will be leading the discussion. She will also be joining us for Worship and will share some information about the new Keystone Conference (if you haven't heard about it, you don't want to miss the brief presentation) and a reflection on the scripture of the day for Palm Sunday!

Pastor Lori is leading a group discussion on the first season of **THE CHOSEN, Wednesdays** during Lent from 1 - 2 p.m. in the lower social hall. Bring your neighbors and friends. We will watch a segment of the THE CHOSEN from the first season and then discuss it. All Welcome!

**Fruit/Nut Rolls** – Our Outlook Committee is again selling those **DELICIOUS** Fruit and Nut Rolls to have in time for Easter. Look for order forms at the entrances to the Church or in your pew. Orders are due **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** and pick up will be on Tuesday, March 26 between 5-7 p.m. in our downstairs social room. You may order by placing your filled out form in the offering plates any Sunday or by calling or emailing the church office.

Services at Old Zionsville UCC for **Holy Week** will be as follows:

March 24 – Palm Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Worship with Guest The Rev.  
Dr. Bonnie Bates, Penn Northeast Conference Minister

March 28 - Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Worship with Communion at the table. Join at the table to share in a seated Holy Communion time with our Church Family

March 29 – Good Friday, 7:30 p.m. Worship will be based on the Stations of the Cross and a Service of Darkness with the stripping of the altar. The Church will remain dark until Easter morning at 7:30 a.m. when we bring the light of Christ into the Sanctuary to celebrate the Resurrection!

March 31 – Easter Sunday, 7:30 a.m. Easter Worship will bring in the light of Christ as we restore the fittings of the altar, the choir, and celebrate Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. or immediately following the early service, we will have coffee, drinks and doughnuts in the lower social hall

9:30 a.m. Egg Hunt is open to all children up to 12 years old. We will have two groups hunting at separate times so families can enjoy all children hunting!

10:15 a.m. Easter will be Resurrection Worship with choir and Holy Communion, Sunday School children will be singing

## **Week of March 10-16, 2024:**

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 Giveaway – Monday @ 4-6pm

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts Pack Meeting – Tuesday @ 7pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

**Fruit/Nut Roll Orders Due** - Tuesday

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

ATF Giveaway – Saturday @ 10am-12pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School

9:00am Adult Book Study with Lutherans  
and Mennonites on Zoom (in our  
lower social hall)

9:45am Third Sunday Treats

10:15am Worship, Loose Offering to Pastor's  
Discretionary Fund

12:00pm Brunch at the Merc

## **Total Offerings from March 3:**

General Offerings: \$1,573.00

Window Fund: \$210.00

Mission: \$45.00

Communion: \$10.00

Utilities: \$25.00

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$30.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 64