

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 24, 2024

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Prayers for Palm Sunday
"Fear"

Prelude: "Hosanna! Christ Is King"

Livingston

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,

All: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.

One: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.

All: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!

One: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.

All: Hosanna, come and save us!

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world. You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing! We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, "Hosanna in the highest!" Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

p.300

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (unison)

God of our hosannas, it would be all too easy to embrace a vision of you as entering Jerusalem with all the pomp and circumstance and violence that power provides. And yet, that is not your way and we confess that we often whisper with the ways of fear rather than shout of your liberation for all people. Help us to lay our lives at your feet and welcome you with shouts of joy. Amen.

Words of Grace

Dear ones, embrace this word with courage. Leave your fear behind, for it does not have the last word and does not have to be the donkey you ride in on. God offers you the way of hope, humility, and hosannas. Rest in the assurance that you are forgiven and embraced in God's tender arms of love. Amen.

*Hymn: "In the Name of the Lord" (sing through 2 times) p.299

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11 p.879

Reflection: The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates

*Palm Parade

One: Come. Join in the parade, you who need answers, you who came looking for peace.

All: Come. Join those who wander through courtyards, court rooms, streets and gardens. Join the crowds who have come looking for answers, looking for peace.

(come to the front altar steps to receive your palm - continue walking around the sanctuary, shouting: "**Hosanna! Glory to God in the highest! Hosanna!**" and "**Blessed is He Who Comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!**", when you get back to your row, you may return to your seat)

Invitation to Generosity

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

Offertory: "Lift Up Your Heads" Williams

* Presentation of 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 Thanksgiving (unison)

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and 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: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" p.297

*Benediction

People of God, raise your branches high. Sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude: "Behold, the King Rides Forth" Paxton



Fear: Service Prayers for Palm/Passion Sunday Year B was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

Please give a warm welcome to The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, our Penn Northeast Conference Minister. We thank her for joining us today!

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are from Dan and Jan Strobel in honor of their 38th Wedding Anniversary.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Henry and MaryAnn Heil in honor of their grandson Syllis Alliston's Birthday.

TODAY'S GREETERS are John and Nancy Civitts.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Jane Bedell.

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.

Don't forget to pick your Fruit/Nut Roll orders on Tuesday, March 26 between 5 and 7 pm.

If you have a Pastoral Emergency between April 1 and 22, please call the church office, Kathy Latshaw or Sharon Trexler. They will contact the Pastor on call.

Join us in Worship on the following Sundays with:

The Rev. David Schnaars – April 7 and April 21

The Rev. Homer Royer – April 14

Thanks to all for helping during my time away.....Pastor Lori

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 Sort and Store will be tomorrow, Monday, March 25 at 10:00am. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry. Please call Millie with any questions.

The next **Supper Club** will be on Tuesday, April 2 at 5:00 p.m. at The Fairgrounds Hotel in Allentown. Please RSVP to Mark or Linda Weaver by Tuesday, March 29. **Sunday Brunchers** will meet at the Mercantile Club (cash only) after Worship on Sunday, April 21 at 12 noon. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 16th to Mark or Linda. And **Lunch Bunch** will be on Friday, April 26 at 12 noon at Ritz Barbecue, Allentown. RSVP by Tuesday, April 23. All are welcome for good food and company.

Wednesday will be the last group discussion on the first season of **THE CHOSEN**, 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!

The Social And Aid Committee is looking for folks who won't be using their grocery points but might be willing to use them to purchase a ham for our next ham and string bean soup sale. Social and Aid Committee will reimburse you for your "purchase." Please call Bob and Annie to learn more. And Thank YOU!

Philly Soft Pretzels will be sold on April 14th after worship and on April 28th after worship. If you are considering buying more than 4, please let Pastor Lori know so they can make sure to have enough for all. Thanks for your support!

Next **Youth Group Meeting** will be held on Friday, April 26, from 6 - 8 p.m. All Welcome!

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

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 24-30, 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 Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Pick Up Fruit/Nut Rolls – Tuesday from 5-7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

The Chosen – Wednesday @ 1pm

Maundy Thursday Worship – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Good Friday Worship – Friday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 7:30am Communion Worship
9:00am Coffee and Donuts
9:30am Egg Hunt for children 12 and under
10:15am Communion Worship

Total Offerings from March 17:

General Offerings: \$1,758.00
Window Fund: \$112.00
Mission: \$145.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund: \$8.00
Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0
Cemetery: \$45.00
Attendance: 52