

**WELCOME TO**  
**Old Zionsville United Church of Christ**  
**5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215**  
**Old Zionsville, PA 18068**

Email: [ozuccoffice@ptd.net](mailto:ozuccoffice@ptd.net) Web page: [www.oldzionsucc.org](http://www.oldzionsucc.org)

Church Office: 610-966-3601

Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

March 5, 2025

7:30p.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Old Zionsville UCC with Our Ministerium Partners**

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**"Not By Bread Alone"**

Prelude: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Bennard

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: Gather for worship, all who wander in the wilderness  
looking for bread.

**All: We have wandered through the wilderness, but  
we cannot live by bread alone.**

One: Gather for worship to be satisfied by the bread of life,  
which nourishes and makes us whole.

**All: Through the Spirit, the words, and the life of  
Christ, we are fed by the bread of life.**

One: Come, let us worship and remember: We are dust,  
and to dust we shall return.

**All: Yet even in dust, we are beloved. We worship the  
One who leads us, feeds us, and calls us to  
repentance.**

Opening Prayer

One: God of dust and wilderness, you meet us in barren  
places, where hunger consumes and temptation calls.

In our wandering, you offer the bread of life; in our  
weakness, your Spirit sustains us.

**All: As we gather this Ash Wednesday, remind us  
of our fragile beginnings and humble end: We are**

**dust, yet we are beloved. Turn our hearts toward repentance so we may embrace your mercy and walk in your ways. Renew us, nourish us, and lead us through the wilderness. Through Jesus, who faced temptation and chose to persevere, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" (vs. 1&2 only) p.295

#### Prayer of Confession

One: Let us lay our burdens down and confess our sins to our God, who loves us unceasingly as we learn and grow.

One: Holy and perfect God, as creatures of dust, we confess we lack eternal perspective.

**All: We confuse our hunger for righteousness and peace with worldly desires of power and wealth.**

One: We confuse our hunger for friendship with shallow connections that deplete our souls.

**All: We hunger for meaning and significance in this universe, yet we choose mind-numbing antidotes that never satisfy.**

One: You are the source of meaning and significance, friendship and love, righteousness and peace.

**All: We gather today to confess our need for you and step back onto the path of the bread of life once again.**

One: Forgive us and set us right, once more.

**All: Amen.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

The God who hears our confession promises to forgive our sins. Receive the pardon of Christ and be at peace, in body and soul. Amen.

#### \*Passing of the Peace

One: Beneath the mantle of peace, Jesus, the bread of life, provides a bounty of fellowship, care, and connection.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Take a moment to greet others with the peace of Christ, which inspires us to care for the needs of our community.

\*Hymn: "Holy Ground" (*sing through 2 times*) p.138

# Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, giver of breath and life, Open our ears to receive the sustenance of your word. Open our hearts to hold the nourishment of your truth. In our hearing, may the Holy Spirit illuminate your words for us today. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of life, we pray. Amen.

Scriptures: Matthew 4:1-11

p.837

## Reflection

\*Hymn: "Here, O my Lord, I see Thee Face to Face"

### The Church of Christ

341

HORATIUS BONAR, 1855

10. 10. 10. 10.

MORECAMBE  
FREDERICK C. ATKINSON, 1870

*Rather slowly, with deep reverence*

1. Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face; Here would I touch and  
2. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God, Here drink with Thee the  
3. This is the hour of ban-quet and of song; This is the heaven-ly  
4. I have no help but Thine, nor do I need An - oth - er arm save

han - dle things un - seen, Here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,  
roy - al wine of heaven; Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,  
ta - ble spread for me: Here let me feast, and, feast - ing, still pro - long  
Thine to lean up - on: It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;

And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.  
Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.  
The brief, bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.  
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone. A-MEN.

## Prayers of the People

One: God of wilderness and bread, we pray with humble spirits, acknowledging our fragility and need. Through the ashes, we remember we are dust, yet we are held in your boundless love.

**All: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: We pray for those wandering in wilderness seasons—those who may be hungry, lonely, or uncertain. Sustain them with your bread of life and lead them toward hope.

**All: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: We pray for those facing temptation to give in to fear, greed, or despair. Strengthen them with your Spirit so they may choose life.

**All: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: We pray for all who bear the heavy burdens of sickness, grief, oppression, and weariness. Bring healing, comfort, and justice, and remind them they are not alone.

**All: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: Teach us to see your grace at work in the dust of our lives, transforming, redeeming, and calling us to mature discipleship. Help us live as people shaped by your mercy, caring for the earth, our neighbors, and ourselves.

**All: Hear our prayers, O God.**

One: Holy One, we lift these prayers to you, trusting in your steadfast love and the nourishment you provide. Feed us with your word and presence, and guide us through every wilderness we face.

**All: Amen.**

## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe we are created from dust, and to dust we shall return, yet we are held in God's eternal love. We believe Christ, the bread of life, nourishes our spirits and sustains us in all seasons. We believe the wilderness is not a place of abandonment, but a place where God meets and strengthens us. We believe Christ, who was tempted, walks with us in our struggles and empowers us to choose life and faithfulness. We believe repentance is a gift, a way to turn back to God and embrace transformation. We believe God's grace is sufficient for every moment of weakness and every step through the wilderness.**

**We believe God provides for our needs, offering spiritual and physical nourishment through Christ. We believe Christ's example calls us to resist temptation and live lives of compassion, mercy, and justice. Even in our fragility and imperfection, we believe God can use us to bring hope, healing, and light to the world. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

The Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to Christ's Table

When they needed to hear it, Christ told his friends:  
I am the vine. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are part of this vine. Come to taste and see. Come to find yourself among the branches. Come to this table to grow again.

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks for the peace of God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: We thank you, O God, you remain here with us.

You have always been here with us. We rejoice that you have stayed. You have called us your life. You have encouraged us to grow. You've put us in the right soil. You've shone your light more brightly upon us. You've fertilized us with your love. Whether your people noticed or not, you cultivated your people. You remained hopeful. You remained expectant.

**All: You encouraged us as much as you coaxed the vines of this fruit from the earth. You radiated the sun upon this wheat. You shone upon the bakers. You loved the harvesters. You remained present in each moment until this time when we could partake of these gifts knowing that you remain in these elements. Transform us, O God, as you transform this bread and this cup so that we might all grow into your abiding love.**

\*Words of Institution

And now, as Christ has taught us, we pray with joy:

\*The Lord's Prayer... (sung)

p.631

Imposition of Ashes

One: On Ash Wednesday, we pause to remember we were formed from dust— the same dust that grows our wheat, roots our grasses, and feeds our livestock, and the same dust that feeds the world. Our bodies will eventually return to dust and continue to nourish the planet, fortifying the plants, sustaining animal life, and passing through the cycles of life once again. All of this is for the glory of the Creator, who set these cycles in motion. Remembering we are dust doesn't diminish our worth or cleanliness; rather, it affirms our integral, connected place in this beautiful work of God's love. We were made with love, and when we die, God shall receive us with love. May we pause to remember our mortality, thank God for this precious life, and reflect upon life's end.

**All: Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

*Coming forward: The congregation may come forward using the center aisle to receive Communion by Intinction (you will be given a piece of bread or gluten free wafer, dip it in the cup of grape wine or white grape juice and proceed to receive ashes if you wish then returning to your seats by the side aisles.*

\*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Remain with us, O God. Make this feast the nourishment we need to grow more wild and wonderful. Graft us onto the vine of your Beloved so that we might grow more connected with you and all of creation. With this food and this drink, let us be the love that we have found in you and your Beloved. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "He Touched Me"

p.505

\*Charge and Benediction

Go forth now, remembering you are dust, that you shall return to dust, and God goes with you through it all. Carry this promise with you, and may you live a life reflecting its

truth. And now may the love of God enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forever. Amen.

\*Extinguishing of the candles

\*Postlude: "Somber March"

Beethoven



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An **Offering Plate** will be at the front door for your envelopes for you home church and/or a donation for the Zionsville Area Food Pantry. Thank you.

*Participating in tonight's Worship Service is:*

*Stacy Jones Anderson – Pastor of Salem United Methodist Church*

*Tom Busted – Pastor of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*Lori Esslinger – Pastor of Old Zionsville UCC*

## **Holy Week Schedule:**

### **Old Zionsville UCC**

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – 7:30 p.m. Communion Worship

Good Friday, April 18 – 7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday, April 20 – 7:30 a.m. Communion Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Egg Hunt for children  
up to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship

(Donuts and Coffee will be served between the Services)

### **Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Maundy Thursday, April 17 - 7:00 p.m. Service of Holy  
Communion and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 18 - 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae/Seven Last  
Words with Music and Solemn Reproaches

Easter Sunday, April 20 - 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy  
Communion

### **Upper Milford Mennonite Church**

Good Friday, April 18 – 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20 - 10:30 a.m.

Orders are being taken for **Corn Pies**, made with local grown potatoes (limit of 150 orders) and **Ham & Cheese Sandwiches**. Pies are \$8.00/each and Sandwiches are \$5.00 each. Orders can be found at the entrances to the Church or in your pew. They must be received **by Sunday, March 9, 2025** and can be dropped in the offering plate any Sunday or call/email the church office-610-966-3601/ozuccoffice@ptd.net. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC.

**Fruit/Nut Rolls** – Our Outlook Committee is selling 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 **Sunday, March 23** and pick up will be on Tuesday, April 15 between 5-6:30 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. Please make checks payable to Old Zionsville UCC.

Pastor Lori will be leading a group discussion on the third season of **THE CHOSEN**. Starting **Wednesdays, March 12** meeting at 1 p.m. in the lower social hall and concluding on April 30. Bring your neighbors and friends. We will watch a segment of the THE CHOSEN from the third season and then discuss it. All Welcome!

We are welcoming anyone from the Ministerium churches (or elsewhere) to join our **Bible Study** group. We meet on Wednesday's at 6:30 PM at the **Mennonite Church** and also have some who join us on Zoom. (Zoom link below) We approach our Bible Study as a group study and conversation rather than a lecture or presentation. A list of Scriptures has been prepared for anyone wishing to read them prior to joining the Study. If you would like a copy of the list please email them at ummchurch@gmail.com.

Zoom Link: [UMMC Bible Study Zoom Link](#)

People can also call in on the telephone.

Phone number to call in: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 896 2702 5530

Passcode: 64506450



**Organ Recital** – Sunday, May 18 at 4:00 p.m. Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church is planning to formally celebrate their new organ with a special dedicatory organ recital. Allen artist, Rudy Lucente, will dazzle and entertain us with his dramatic playing and musical talents. There will be a time to meet Rudy during coffee and cake after the concert. Plan to attend this exciting event!!

**Grief Care** will be offered at Old Zionsville UCC starting on Wednesday, May 28 and run till July 23. There are nine sessions and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. To register for these sessions, or ask questions, you can contact Pastor Lori at MomAndPastorToo@yahoo.com or by calling her 610-393-3522. This group is open to all and is Free.