

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

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Web page: www.oldzionsucc.org

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

April 17, 2025

7:30p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Maundy Thursday:
"Bread for Remembrance"

Prelude: "At the Midnight Hour"

Higgins

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

One: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup, saying, "Do this in remembrance of me."

All: We gather to remember the bread of life, broken at the table of love.

One: Jesus knelt to wash his disciples' feet, showing us what love looks like in action.

All: We gather to remember the Prince of Peace who chose humility over domination.

One: Jesus shared his life and love with the world, inviting us to be nourished and transformed.

All: The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy and merciful God, on this night of remembrance, we recall how Jesus gathered with his disciples— companions he called friends, who faltered in their faithfulness. In the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup, he met their weakness with forgiveness, their failures with love, and their fears with courage. We come before you as they did, flawed yet yearning to follow, seeking the grace only you can give. As we reflect on the meal and the meaning of that night, draw us closer to

one another and to you. May this table remind us that your unending love redeems even the darkest moments. In the name of Jesus Christ, who walks with us still, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This" (vs. 1 & 2 only) p.314

Call & Prayer of Confession

One: Often, as human beings, we forget the very essentials that matter most. Let us confess the ways we have forgotten Jesus' command to love and to remember.

All: God of compassion, we confess we have allowed the distractions of life to cloud our memories of your love. We have failed to reflect your kindness in our actions and have neglected your command to serve one another. Forgive us, Lord. Stir our hearts and bring to mind the joy and purpose we find in Jesus' life and resurrection. Remind us that we are yours, and empower us to live as your people. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in Christ, remember this good news: The same one who humbled himself in service to his friends offers us forgiveness and grace, too. Receive the liberating love of Jesus and be at peace. Amen

*Hymn: "Break Thou the Bread of Life" (vs. 1 & 2 only) p.413

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-29 p.861

Reflection

Song: "Bread of Life" (sing with video)

Vs 1: If you're hungry, come
Tired and undone
There's a place for you
A place for you at the table.
If you're lonely, come
Fill your empty cup
There's a drink for you
A drink for you at the table

Vs 2: Bring your weary mind
Every tear you've cried
There is peace for you
Peace for you at the table
Lay your burdens down
Hope is all around
You are welcome here
Welcome here at the table

Chorus: Bread of life
Jesus with us
Healing our hearts with love
Bread of life
Broken for you
Share with another too
There is enough
Oh there will always be
So take this bread with me

Bridge 1: Freely given to us
So we might give
Freely to others
Freely given to us
So let us give freely to others
Freely given to us
So we might give
Freely to others
Freely given to us
So let us give freely to others

Affirmation of Faith

We believe Jesus calls us to remember him every time we partake in the Lord's Supper. We remember God sent Jesus to live a human life, complete with temptations, struggles, pain, and hardships. We remember Jesus assumed a body of flesh, a human mind, and a kindred spirit, yet lived a sinless, holy life. We remember Jesus devoted himself to love and justice, teaching us about the kin(g)dom of God through stories and healing works. We remember Jesus fed the hungry, ate with sinners, flipped tables of injustice, and set tables of communion. We remember Jesus was faithful to his friends, even though they would desert him in his time of most desperate need. We remember Jesus broke bread and shared the cup in his final hours, showing us community happens best at the table. We believe the bread and the cup at God's table are available to all who seek to know God better. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: "In The Upper Room"

Gaither

* 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.**

Prayers for Our Offering: (unison)

Loving God, we give you thanks that we have gifts to share and can do so freely. Multiply our gifts as our testament to your great love for us. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Prayers of the People

One: On this night, we remember the love of Christ that calls us to serve one another. God who restores and makes all things new, we ask your healing for all who are broken in body, mind, or spirit. May they find comfort in your presence and peace in the power of Christ's love.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We lift up those who have experienced betrayal, abandonment, or loss. May the healing balm of your grace soothe their wounds and restore their hope.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We lift up those who are weary from the weight of injustice, oppression, and struggle. May your strength and resilience empower them to continue the work of reconciliation.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We lift up those who are not with us at this table, especially those who are suffering or alone. May they know they are not forgotten and feel your love always around them.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We lift up this community of faith. May we grow in love for one another, extend grace, and seek to serve with humility as we follow the example of Christ.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We lift up the church throughout the world. May we be agents of redemption, bringing your love to all who are in need.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We lift up our world. May the peace of Christ prevail, healing divisions, restoring hope, and renewing all things.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray all these things in the name of the one who humbly served his friends.

All: Amen.

Hand Washing

One: Jesus, who could have commanded the heavens to bow, instead knelt down, towel in hand, to wash his friends' dirty, tired, and worn feet. Though he was a leader, he chose to serve everyone else. What a strange, powerful act.

All: We come now to follow, to serve, and to be served.

One: When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he washed the barriers between us. He willingly knelt down to show us that love isn't about keeping clean; it's about creating spaces for connection and community.

All: We come with open hands and hearts, ready to love and be loved.

One: As we wash, we are reminded that to love like Jesus is to care for the well-being and nourishment of everyone.

All: We wash with the hope that our lives reflect the servanthood of Jesus, bringing dignity and worth to everyone we encounter. Amen.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

This is the table of Christ, the table of love, healing, and restoration. Today, we come and remember the love Christ showed us on that night. We bring with us all that is broken—our hearts, our bodies, our world. In this sacred meal, we find the nourishment we need to be restored. Here, we encounter the healing grace of God, a love that mends and makes new. Come, not because you are perfect, but because you long for wholeness. Come, because Christ invites you to remember and be renewed. Come, there's a place for you at the table.

The Great Thanksgiving

One: Creator God, we give you thanks for the gift of life and the abundance of the earth. From the beginning, you have fed us with the bread of your creation and the overflowing cup of your love.

All: Through Jesus Christ, you showed us how to live with compassion and grace, sharing meals with sinners and outcasts, and calling all people to your table of grace.

One: Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be nourished for the journey of faith and empowered to live as his body in the world. Amen.

The Words of Institution

We gather at this table in remembrance of Christ, alongside disciples old and young, from every walk of life. We are confident that through Jesus Christ, we are all nourished and made whole.

One: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

*Let us pray: **Holy God, you nourish and provide for us. Help us savor this timeless meal of the bread and the cup. May we graciously receive this gift so we might share its abundance with others. Jesus, you believe in the life-changing power of a shared meal. Grant us the courage and strength to ensure God's table is everyone's table. Holy Spirit, you are our great sustainer. Stretch us to find new ways of making sure those who are hungry become fed. Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, which 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 forever. Amen, Amen

Sharing of the Holy Communion (hold the bread and the cup - grape wine and white grape juice - so we can commune together.)

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (unison)

Living God, we thank you for this holy meal, through which we have been nourished by the body and blood of Christ. In this sacrament, we have been reminded of your boundless love and divine generosity. Strengthen us to live as servants of peace, extending grace and compassion to all we encounter. May this meal sustain us, transforming our hearts to reflect Christ's love. Amen.

*Hymn: "Jesus Paid It All"

p.305

*Charge and Benediction

Siblings of faith, you have been fed at the table of the never-ending feast, where the bread satisfies our hunger and the cup quenches our thirst. Go now, into the world with humility, to serve the hungry and thirsty who have not yet encountered the goodness of love. Amen

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Day of Sorrow"

Verdi



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TONIGHT'S GREETER is Ethel Hollenbach.

TONIGHT'S LITURGIST is Wendy Yeakel.

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.

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

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

April 20 – 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 6th Grade.

10:15 a.m. Easter will be Resurrection Worship with choir and Holy Communion

The Chosen, Season 3, is being shown in our lower social hall on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. until April 30. All welcome to share in viewing this very moving series on the Life of Jesus.

New Member Classes on Sunday mornings in May. Want to learn more about our Church? Just join in the discussions on two Sunday mornings on May 4 and 11 at 9:00 a.m. in the lower social hall. You are under no obligation to join, but if you wish to join the church, we will receive new members on the second Sunday of May during our 10:15 a.m. Worship. Please register in advance with Pastor Lori by calling, emailing or texting her at least a week before the session begins. Topics for discussion include: What IS the United Church of Christ? What IS Old Zionsville UCC? And How do we work together as a congregation? A tour of the Church building happens on the second Sunday.

Lunch Bunch will meet on April 25 at 12 noon at East Penn Diner. Please let Linda or Mark know if you are planning to come. **Supper Club** will meet on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Main Street Pub, 505 Main Street, Bally. Please RSVP for this to Linda or Mark by Sunday, May 4. All are Welcome!

The next round of **Grief Care** is scheduled to start on Wednesday, May 28 and run till July 23. There are nine sessions and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm. Please speak to Pastor Lori with any questions. This group is open to all and is Free.

Arden Courts of Allentown is **in need of Adult Literature** for their Library. Novels, Magazines, Large Print Word Search/Crossword/Sudoku/Puzzle Games are all welcome. You may bring your donations to the Church. Thank you.