

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

April 18, 2025

7:00 p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Good Friday
"Bread for Uncertainty"

Prelude: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Bach

Welcome

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: Come together—let us tell the sad story. The bread of life was broken long, long ago.

All: Let us tell this story of loss and despair, for Jesus endured it all.

One: Come together—let us tell the story of the one who suffered and died.

All: Let us tell the story of the death of the Good Shepherd, who loved us until the very end.

One: We gather together to remember and grieve the events of this day. The bread of life has been broken.

All: Come, let us worship God, who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy God, you sent Jesus to live as a human being. Today, we tell the story of his death. As we remember the way he faced evil with courage, despair with obedience, and loneliness with grief, we cannot help but identify with his suffering. Open our hearts and minds to experience this story with the same courage, obedience, and grief. Expand our imaginations to see this story as a testament to your faithfulness, which transcends the plans and manifestations of evil in this world. And as we meditate upon this tragic day, we also remember that nothing can separate us from your love, the love that was poured out long ago. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

p.324

Call and Prayer of Confession

One: Often as human beings, we prejudge and prosecute the innocent. Let us confess the ways in which we have contributed to unjust and violent systems.

All: Almighty God, you are the true judge of all that is righteous. We confess we have looked upon our neighbors with prejudice and suspicion. We have assumed wrongly, judged poorly, and sentenced innocent people to unfit consequences. We have judged people by their names, speech, dress, accent, country of origin, documentation status, age, gender, ethnicity, and orientation. We have reinforced stereotypes in poor attempts at humor or entertainment. We have whispered unjust thoughts to our friends while shouting for justice in public. We have grown apathetic toward the innocent who remain incarcerated or unjustly punished. Forgive us for our unkindness, our mockery, and our cruelty. Set us right again and uplift the voices of those who teach us to be just and kind. Let us sit at their feet and absorb their wisdom so that we might become liberators to a hurting world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Siblings in Christ, remember this good news: Jesus came to set sinners free. Release your claims to the condemnation of others in Jesus' name, receive the pardon of Christ, and be at peace. Amen.

*Hymn: "Were You There?" (verses 1,2 & 3 only) p.315

Scripture: Luke 23:26-56 p.918

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe Jesus lived and died in a human body, fully experiencing the joys and sorrows of this life we know. We believe Jesus was accused, tried, and sentenced to torture and death by those in power. We believe that in his suffering, Jesus joined the suffering of all who are oppressed, wounded, and cast aside. We believe his death demonstrates his great love for us, giving us a chance to be made whole. We believe in the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross, changing the narrative of power, inviting everyone to receive the gift of grace and love. We believe the bread of life nourishes the world and satisfies our deepest hunger through his breaking and rising. We believe this story is not over, and love will have the final word. Amen.

(offering plates are available at the exits for your convenience)

The Prayers of the People

One: Let us bring our prayers before God, who hears the cries of the brokenhearted and sustains the weary.

All: Bread of life, hear our prayer.

One: For those who are broken by injustice or violence, grant justice and peace. Strengthen those who work to dismantle systems of cruelty and build bridges of understanding.

All: Bread of life, hear our prayer.

One: For those who are grieving, who feel abandoned or hopeless, be a comfort and companion. Hold them tenderly in their sorrow and enable us to journey beside them in love.

All: Bread of life, hear our prayer.

One: For those whose bodies are encumbered by illness, hunger, or poverty, bring healing and wholeness. Move our hearts to share your abundant provision and become bringers of care, restoration, and nourishment.

All: Bread of life, hear our prayer.

One: For the earth, groaning under the weight of exploitation and neglect, renew the health of creation. Guide us to honor the life around us with wisdom, humility, and good stewardship.

All: Bread of life, hear our prayer.

One: When we feel broken by guilt, shame, or fear, remind us of your grace. Heal the wounds of our hearts, and teach us to live as vessels of your love.

All: Bread of life, hear our prayer.

One: God of the broken and the whole, hear these spoken and unspoken prayers. Nourish our spirits as we serve this hurting world, so all might know the satisfying power of the bread of life.

All: Amen.

The Sound of Jesus Receiving 39 Lashes

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken in a whisper*)

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

Depart in Silence



TONIGHT'S GREETERS are Nancy and John Civitts.

TONIGHT'S LITURGIST is Mark Weaver.

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.

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.

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.

Easter Services:

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 6th Grade

10:15 a.m. Communion Worship,

(Donuts and Coffee will be served between the Services)