

**“Whoever you are...wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”
God is Still Speaking**

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE

Ascension

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



An Open and Affirming Congregation

December 13, 2020

11:00 AM



1700 West Main Street, Jeffersonville, PA 19403
(610) 539-1693

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“Shepherd’s Song” (Boyles)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Promised One of God brings good news
to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.
(*Isa. 61:1*)

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!
(*John 1:7*)

Leader: The Promised One of God proclaims
liberty to captives and release to prisoners.
(*Isa. 61:1*)

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

Leader: The Promised One of God comforts all who
mourn (*Isa. 61:2-3*) and gives a mantle of praise
instead of a faint spirit. Rejoicing always, praying
without ceasing, (*1 Thess. 5:16-17, 21*) holding fast to
what is good,

People: we are witnesses to the light of Christ!

GATHERING HYMN

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” *New Century Hymnal 120*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing (Isa. 61:8) and every form of evil? (1 Thess. 5:22) You have given us the gift of your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? (1Thess. 5:19) You have given us the words of the prophets (1 Thess. 5:20) and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you? You have sent the light into the world; (John 3:19) why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden (Isa. 61:11) until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

silent prayer of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Isaiah 64:1

Leader: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence –

WAITING IN SILENCE

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Glory to God 88*

O come, O come, O Adonai,
who came to all on Sinai high,
and from its peak a single law
proclaimed in majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:46b-55

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light” *soloist Liz Brunton*

THE SERMON

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

*Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.*

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES

We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have mailed in their offerings to the church. The ministry of Ascension Church continues, we need your support. Although we cannot gather in the building right now, we still have our expenses to pay and our outreach continues.

So, please continue to **mail** in your offerings, or you may also opt to contribute **online** through our new **PayPal** account that you can access on our website at ascensionucc.org and go to the Donate page. Please let us know if you encounter any issues accessing PayPal and know that we are grateful for your generosity.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, (*1 Thess. 5:18*) for you are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us. With our whole being, spirit and soul and body, (*1 Thess. 5:23b*) we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Is Come” *Glory to God 744*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“Let the King of Glory Come” (Joncas)

Question for Reflection

John 1:6–8, 19–28 reminds us that we are not the light, but with John we are called to testify as witnesses to the light, who is Jesus Christ. The verb “to bear witness” occurs thirty-three times in the Fourth Gospel! How can you bear witness, in this season of lights, to the true Light who has come into the world?

Household Prayer: Morning

Light of the world, you greet me this morning with new possibilities. Shine brightly, I pray, until I see into the dark places of this world, and into the dark places of my own life. I want to follow you in paths of justice, (*Isa. 61:8*) speak up with you for liberty, (*Isa. 61:1*) and bend with you toward the brokenhearted, even the broken places within myself. I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise— (*Isa. 61:3, 10*) and with my whole being I will rejoice in you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day. Let me dream this night (*Ps. 126:1–2*) of all the great things you have done. As the darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow, I give thanks for the greater Light no darkness can overcome. To anyone who mourns (*Isa. 61:1–2*) or sits in prison or fears danger this night, bring the peace that only you can give. (*John 14:27*) You are faithful, (*1 Thess. 5:24*) and I know you will do this. In Christ. Amen.



We welcome you to our Community of Faith. We pray that God will speak to you during this worship experience. If you have need of pastoral assistance, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dwayne at the church office number listed below or make an appointment with him today.

We welcome children in worship at all times. If you would prefer, childcare is available. Please see one of our ushers. Children's bulletins and crayons are available from the ushers.

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|---|---|
| Ministers | All the people of the Congregation |
| Pastor | The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier |
| Minister of Music | Dan Weckerly |
| President of the Consistory | Liz Brunton |
| Vice President of the Consistory | Michele Luke |
| Secretary of the Consistory | Molly Lorenz |
| Moderator of Spiritual Council | Molly Lorenz |
| Elders: | Liz Brunton, Robin Weed, Mary Lambon
Molly Lorenz, Barbara Montague-Graham |
| Chair of the Diaconate | Michele Luke |
| Deacons: | Liam D'Aquila, Sandy Dounce
Michele Luke, Lynda Waltman, Christa Cavanaugh |
| Church Secretary | Judy Parker |
| Sexton | Emeric Suto |
| Treasurer | Sandy Maben |

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