

“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

August 22, 2021

10:00 AM

Then Solomon stood before the altar
of God in the presence of all the assembly
of Israel, and spread out his hands
to heaven: “Hear the plea of your servant
and of your people Israel when they
pray toward this place; O hear in heaven
your dwelling place; heed and forgive.”

1 Kings 8:22, 30

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

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“The Lord Hears the Cry of the Righteous” (Inez)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
CHIMING OF THE HOUR/RECEIVING THE LIGHT**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The living God has sent the living bread from heaven to fill our hearts with strength! In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

GATHERING HYMN

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” *Glory to God 394*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Watchful God, you know our plight. Offended, we have not believed your words. Complaining, we have betrayed your love. We are weak, estranged, wandering, and lost. Seeking to stand in our own strength, we fall. Strangers to your holiness, we wander. Defenseless against evil within and without, we are lost. Shine your light in our darkness and guide us back to our place in you, through Christ, the bread from heaven, who brings us back to God and feeds us with his strength.

silent prayer of confession

KYRIE

Leader: Lord have mercy.
People: Christ have mercy.
Leader: Lord have mercy.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading 1 Kings 8:22-30;41-43
Second Reading Ephesians 6:10-20

HYMN

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine” *Glory to God 839*
please rise

Gospel Lesson John 6:56-69

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

THE SERMON

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord, saying,
O God, keep your promise.
People: You have the words of life.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Living God, we give you thanks for Christ, the bread from heaven, through whom we offer these gifts. Endow these gifts with your power, that they may express your steadfast love and impart your sustaining strength to all those in need. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory” *Glory to God 307*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“I Am the Living Bread” (Kinderman/Hops)

August Birthdays

8/22-8/28/2021

*Cindy Mosier, Mike Perez (22); Neko Crespo (24);
Sandy Paine (25); Chuck Schaller (28)*

Questions for Reflection

“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name...and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you” (1 Kings 8:41-43). Are these people of other nationalities, ethnic groups or faith traditions in your workplace, neighborhood, community or congregation? What are some ways in which you and your congregation can express the welcome of God to those who are different from you?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord God, my sun and shield, a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Let the favor of your presence strengthen me and accompany me everywhere I go today. Prepare me to be a sanctuary, that your light and love may radiate through me. Through Christ my Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord God my strength, your Spirit never tires; your love never fails. I bring you my struggles, stresses, questions, and worries of this day. Where else can I go? You have the words of eternal life. Let your promises sustain my soul and comfort my heart as I rest in you, through Christ my Lord. Amen.

**“For the LORD
God is a sun and shield:
the LORD will give grace and glory:
no good thing will he withhold
from them that walk uprightly.”**

Psalms 84:11





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 |

Telephone: (610) 539-1693

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