

**“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

November 8, 2020

11:00 AM



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

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“I Praise His Name”

(Nixon)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, listen: the Lord has done marvelous things.

People: **We will celebrate all the wonderful and diverse things God has done.**

Leader: Because we are God’s people, we live in hope.

People: **Let us worship God and celebrate how wonderfully God has made us!**

GATHERING HYMN

Welcome



1. Let's
2. Let's
3. Let's



walk to- geth - er for a__ while_ and
talk to- geth - er of a__ time_ when
dream to- geth - er of the_ day_ when



ask where we be - gin__ to
we will share a__ feast,__ where
earth and heav'n are_ one,__ a



build a world where love can_ grow_ and
pride and pow - er kneel to_ serve_ the
cit - y built of love and_ light,__ the



hope can en - ter__ in.____ To
lone - ly and the_ least,____ and
new Je - ru - sa - lem,____ where our

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).

Text: Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller.

Music: *Welcome*, by Mark A. Miller.

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be the hands of heal - ing_ and to
 joy will set the ta - ble_ as we
 mourn - ing turns to danc - ing,_ ev - 'ry



plant the seeds of_ peace,_ sing - ing
 join our hands to_ pray,_
 crea - ture lifts its_ voice,_



wel - come, wel - come to_ this place,_ you're in -



vit - ed_ to come and know_ God's grace._ All are



wel - come,_ the love of God_ to_ share_



_ 'cause all of us_ are wel - come_ here,_



after final refrain

_ all are wel - come in this_ place._

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

silent prayer of confession

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy” *Glory to God 437*

Three staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff has lyrics: "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Em, D, Em, Am, Em, D, Em. The second staff has lyrics: "You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em. The third staff has lyrics: "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF PRAISE

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” *Glory to God 591*

PASSING THE PEACE

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15

HYMN

“For Everyone Born” *Glory to God 769*

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:1-13

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

THE SERMON

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

Leader: It is not we who have chosen God, but God who has chosen us. And we are affirmed as we hear the voice of God say:

All: I will make of the outcasts a strong nation.

(Micah 4:7)

Leader: Many of us – gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered – experience exclusion, rejection, alienation, and hopelessness, but we have heard the voice of God say:

All: I will make of the outcasts a strong nation.

Leader: Many of us – differently abled, hearing impaired, and heterosexual with so-called different or unacceptable relationships or families – have experienced the inaccessibility and inhospitality of many churches, synagogues, and temples, but we have heard the voice of God say:

All: I will make of the outcasts a strong nation.

Leader: Many of us have felt silenced, unheard, dismissed because of our language, culture, race or gender, but in our own languages and in the midst of our life experiences we have heard the voice of God say:

All: I will make of the outcasts a strong nation.

Leader: Many of us have been treated as outcasts as we have lived with and through sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, HIV, breast cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses, but we have heard the voice of God say:

All: I will make of the outcasts a strong nation.

Leader: It is not we who have chosen God, but God who has chosen us, and we are affirmed as we hear the voice of God say:

All: I will make of the outcasts a strong nation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

following each petition, please respond:

Eternal God, hear our prayer.

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 receive our gifts, tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings, signs of trust in your coming reign of justice, peace, and love; in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Bring Many Names” *Glory to God 760*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“Faith and Fidelity” (Daniels)

Household Prayer: Morning

Creator of all, I awake to the day you have made with praise on my lips, for your Spirit gives me breath. May I live this day for the sake of Jesus, the light of the world, the apple of my eye, my beginning and end. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Creator of all, you make the night for peace and rest. In the moon and stars we see the reflection of your eternal light, so whether we live or whether we die, we know that we belong to you. Keep watch over those who work through the night; give peace to those who cannot sleep. Let me surrender all anxiety and fear to your loving embrace, that I may awake to serve you with joy. 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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