

“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

June 20, 2021 **PRIDE SUNDAY** 10:00 AM



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

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“In Unity” (Jacobssohn)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CHIMING OF THE HOUR/RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When waters are rough,
People: we hold each other tightly.
Leader: When the sea begins to swallow us,
People: we hold each other tightly and call on God.
Leader: But we also need God and each other when there
are no looming waves.
People: We can splash and play in the shallow end,
Leader: and venture into deeper waters with trusted
friends,
**People: delighting in refreshing currents of
community.**
Leader: Let us feel God’s refreshing presence as we
gather near the waters,
**All: and wade in the possibilities of life offered
us today.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Let Us Build A House” *Glory to God 301*
Verses 1, 2, & 3

THE FLAMES OF LOVE written by Kimi Floyd Reisch

We light the flame of commitment,
To stand with and work to create change,
Until all know they are beloved.

We light the flame of survival,
Grateful for our lives,
Remembering in love those lost along the road.

We light the flame of change,
Committing to recenter toward love,
In hearts, in minds, in our world.

We light the flame of hope,
Loving each other, building community,
even when it is uncomfortable.

We light the flame of knowledge,
Following the path of justice,
Justice that is love embodied.

We light this flame of radical love.
To speak out for those who have been silenced.
Those who have been rejected for who they love.
Those who have been persecuted for who they are.
Those who have been bullied for daring to be bold.
Those who have been othered and forced into the margins.
Those who have been lonely.
Those who have been hurt.
Those who are still hurting.

We light this flame as
a people committed,
we are survivors.
we will change the world,
until no one lives without hope,
until no one lives without justice.
We light this flame and pledge that
In love, with love, and through love,
All things are possible.

HELP, I NEED SOMEBODY (based on Psalm 130)

written by Kimi Floyd Reisch

ALL: It has been a hard year. The losses from Covid, from gun violence, from racial injustice have all piled on, pulling us down in the depths of despair. Many of us have hit rock bottom.

ONE: Listen! The voice of comfort and love is calling!
Listen and hear the voice of the Divine Comforter.

ALL: It has been a hard year. Anger, grief, despair. I watch people suffering and being oppressed. I feel the chains of oppression. Until we are all free, none of us can be free.

ONE: God never said that forgiveness was easy, but that it must become a habit we nurture. Forgive the world children, but also forgive yourself for feeling vulnerable and human.

ALL: I pray, and I pray, my life a prayer to God.

ONE: Wait for it – listen to God – and follow the wisdom found in prayer.

ALL: There are lives on the line here while we are waiting and watching.

ONE: Just as Israel watched and waited for freedom, for the return of hope.

ALL: With God's arrival comes love. With God's arrival comes generous redemption of hope.

ONE: Just as God redeemed Israel, from captivity to freedom, you too are free. You too are chosen. You ARE enough for God.

ALL: For God is love and we are God's Beloved, just as we are – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, queer, asexual, intersex, ally, cisgender, heterosexual. We are a family.

HYMN

“There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” *Glory to God 408*

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading 1 Samuel 17:32-49

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

please rise

Gospel Lesson Mark 4:35-41

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

THE SERMON

MEDITATION “Special Music”

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bighearted God, we ask you to take these gifts, bless them, and use them to calm the storms and create in our communities new, imaginative, and life-giving streams. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Let Us Build A House” *Glory to God 301*
Verses 1, 4, & 5

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“The Lord Bestows His Blessing” (Hostutler)

*The Bulletins are given to the Glory of God,
in memory of my good friend, Doris Kulp,
by George Klehamer*

June Birthdays

6/20-6/26/2021

*Maureen Panetta (20); Willie Graham, Mark Hahn (23);
Richard Firth, Avery Sicher (24); Paul Billitto (26)*

June Anniversaries

6/20-6/26/2021

Ray & Sandy Paine (25)

OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

In our faith journey we, the family of the Reformed Church of the Ascension, United Church of Christ, strive for love, justice and equality for all of God's children.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In time God placed creatures on the earth, from dinosaurs to bugs, culminating in the wondrous variety of the world's people. We believe that a faithful reading of Scripture reveals that people were not simply of one sort, but of many sorts.

Just as we welcome into our family of faith people of every ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure, as an Open-And-Affirming Congregation, we welcome those of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into the full life and ministry of God's covenant community. Led by the Spirit, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us, as we grow together in faith and love.



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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