

The People of God, Gathered As
CHRIST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
together with
MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
on
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

The Gathering of God's People

Thoughts for Today:

“Where mercy, love, and pity dwell, there God is dwelling too.”

~William Blake, English poet, 1757-1827

“Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous.”

~Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist, 1879-1955

“People see God every day, they just don't recognize him.”

~Pearl Bailey, American singer and actor, 1918-1990

“Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.”

~Garth Brooks, American singer, born 1962

Greetings and Announcements

The Prelude

**The Call to Worship (from Psalm 66:16-20, 8-9):*

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what God has done for me.

**I cried aloud to God,
and God was extolled with my tongue.**

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
God would not have listened.

**But truly God has listened;
God has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

Blessed be God, because God has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

**Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of God's praise be heard.**

God has kept us among the living,
God has not let our feet slip.

**The Opening Prayer (Unison):*

We welcome you, God, Father, Christ Jesus, and gracious Holy Spirit. We are grateful that your desire is to be with and among us, your people. We recognize that you are here to enrich our faith and to deepen our relationship with you. Your desire is to help us, guide us, and direct us. You want the very best for us. We thank you for this moment of grace for all who are gathered here today. Amen.

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Opening

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729
 Trans. by Frederick W. Foster (1760-1835)
 and Rev. John Miller, 1789; alt., 1932 6. 6. 8. D. 3. 3. 6. 6.

ARNSBERG
 Rev. Joachim Neander's
 "Bundes-Lieder," 1680

Not too fast; reverently

1. God Him - self is with us: Let us now a - dore Him, And with awe ap -
 2. God Him - self is with us: Hear the harps re - sound - ing! See the crowds the
 3. O Thou Fount of bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it; Trust - ing on - ly

pear be - fore Him. God is in His tem - ple— All with - in keep
 throne sur - round - ing! "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly"— Hear the hymn as -
 in Thy mer - it, Like the ho - ly an - gels Who be - hold Thy

si - lence, Pros - trate lie with deep - est rev - erence. Him a - lone God we own,
 cend - ing, An - gels, saints, their voices blend - ing! Bow Thine ear To us here:
 glo - ry, May I cease - less - ly a - dore Thee, And in all, Great and small,

Him, our God and Sav - iour; Praise His Name for - ev - er.
 Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Thy Church now rais - es.
 Seek to do most near - ly What Thou lov - est dear - ly. A - MEN.

The Word with Young Christians

WE ARE RECONCILED WITH GOD.

The Invitation to Reconciliation

The Confession of Our Sin (Unison):

Creator and giver of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives: when we walk through this world and fail to see the wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation; when we walk through our lives and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us; when we walk through holy moments and fail to savor your presence, instead feeling abandoned in the vast sweep of life, as each day rushes at us with its demands. Open our eyes to your presence, God of love, so that we may lean on you, for you uphold all of creation in tenderness and power. Amen.

~Silence for reflection and personal confession~

The Assurance of Pardon

Response: “God Himself Is with Us” ~Verse 3

O thou fount of blessing, purify my spirit; Trusting only in thy merit, like the holy angels who behold thy glory, may I ceaselessly adore thee, and in all, great and small, seek to do most nearly, what thou lovest dearly.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS.

The Sharing of Our Joys and Concerns

The Prayer Versicles: God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A Period of Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (using ‘debts/debtors’)

Hymn: “Happy Our Home When God Is There” ~ No. 453

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US.

The Prayer of the Day (Unison):

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy, receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Readings from Scripture:

The First Lesson ----- Acts 17:22-31

The Epistle Lesson --- 1 Peter 3:13-22

The Gospel Lesson ---- John 14:15-21

The Sermon: “WHERE IS GOD IN THIS?”

WE RESPOND WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT.

**The Presentation of Our Tithes and Gifts*

**The Closing Prayer (Unison):*

Living and gracious God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ you have brought us out to a spacious place where we are called to live as those redeemed. Empower us by your Spirit to keep your commandments, so that we may show forth your love with gentle word and reverent deed to all your people. Amen.

**Hymn:* “I Love to Tell the Story” ~CH No. 444

**The Benediction and Threefold Amen*

The Postlude

WELCOME to all who worship here on this Sixth Sunday of Easter. We're glad you're here! Please feel free to join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. “No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.”

The Rev. Dr. Larry Smith, Pastor

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Coco Qu, Accompanist

Jane Miller, Lay Reader

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14, 2023, Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

Acts 17:22-31: Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

1 Peter 3:13-22: Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

LOOKING AHEAD:

Mon, May 29: Memorial Day

Please Note: During the entire month of June we will be receiving offerings of both food and money to support the important work of the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry. Your contributions will be received at both our churches on every Sunday in June.

Sun, June 4: TRINITY SUNDAY

Worship at 10:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion UCC

There will be a congregational meeting of Mt. Zion UCC immediately following worship.

June 5 to 10: Annual Meeting of Penn Central Conference

Tues, June 6: Volunteers are needed at Harvest of Hope from 4:15 until 7:00 p.m.



**Honoring and Remembering
Our Loved Ones on
Mother's Day – May 14, 2023**

Baughner, Cindy: In memory of my mother, *SARABELLE L. BAUGHER*
& my grandmothers, *LYDIA M. CRAMER & BEULAH M. BAUGHER*
In honor of my aunt, *SHIRLEY A. LEHR*
& my cousins, *STEPHANIE E. LEHR & CARLENE J. HESS*

Glenn Bortner: In memory of my wife, *DARLENE BORTNER*
In honor of my daughter, *ANGELA MARCH*

Donna: In memory of *MIM*

Earnst, Jane: In memory of *NADINE MUMMERT & EDNA ALBRIGHT*

Erika: In memory of *SUSAN OSTERMAN*

Ferry, Owen & Maverick: In honor of *LAURA FERRY*

Feeser, Jane: In memory of my mother, *ROMAINE HARBOLD*
& my sister, *FLORENCE SPRENKLE*
In honor of my sister, *BETTY HARBOLD*

Fishel, Evonne & Keith: In memory of our mothers, *LUCILLE FISHEL*
& *FLORENCE HOOVER*

Harrold, Cordelia: In memory of *MARGUERITE GLADFELTER* &
JOSEPHINE CAUDILL

Mark & Laura: In honor of *KAREN MATHISON*

Mathison, Greg & Karen: In memory of *BERNADETTE MATHISON*

Mathison, Karen & Greg: In memory of *ANNA MAE RUNK*

Matt: In honor of *SHERRY*

Miller, Jane: In memory of *ROMAINE MILLER*

Neiderer, Will: In honor of my mom, *JANE FEESER*
& my grandma, *ANNA NEIDERER*

Nesbitt, Joy: In memory of my mother, Mildred *YOUNKINS*;
my paternal grandmother, *LILY YOUNKINS*;
& my maternal grandmother, *RHODA GEARHART*
In honor of my daughter, *JOANNE DAY*
& my daughter-in-law, *STACEY NESBITT*

Osterman Children: In honor of *ERIKA OSTERMAN*

Overmiller, Wayne & Joanne: In memory of *FLORENCE OVERMILLER*
& *BEATRICE MYERS*

Rebert. Carla: In memory of my mother, *LUCRETA REBERT*
& my grandmothers, *SARAH REBERT & EFFIE SENFT*
In honor of my daughter, *KIM HEIST*

Rowan: In honor of *LILLY SMITH*

Shane: In honor of *DENISE*

Sydnee: In honor of *LORI WILLIAMS*

Strausbaugh, Katie: In memory of *EDNA ROHRBAUGH*

A MOTHER'S LOVE

*Of all the special joys in life,
The big ones and the small,
A mother's love and tenderness
Is the greatest of them all.*

Anon

Thoman, Blevan: In memory of *FLORENCE SMITH*
In honor of *Karen Thoman, BEV THOMAN & JOAN BERWAGER*

Yingling, Dick: In honor of *ANNA YINGLING*

Yingling, Anna & Dick: In memory of *EVA YINGLING & JUNE GASS*
In honor of *CHERYL YINGLING, JENNIFER YINGLING*
& *KAYLA NEIDERER*



*Thank you for your contribution
to the Social Hall Floor Fund.*





A Mother...
When you're a child she
walks before you,
To set an example.
When you're a teenager
she walks behind you
To be there should you
need her.
When you're an adult she
walks beside you
So that as two friends
you can enjoy life
together...
Author Unknown