

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
JULY 2, 2022
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: The worship leader will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People.

GATHERING

Prelude: "A Patriotic Medley" – Jon Michael Ogletree

Video: "Independence Day"

Gathering Song: "God Bless America" – Kate Smith

Welcome – Deb Davies

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Independence Day is coming soon.

We celebrate a time when our country declared its independence from foreign domination.

But many things dominate our hearts: fear, apathy, intolerance, anger.

May God hear our celebrations and also our cries for help.

Remember how God has blessed you, and be a blessing to others.

Lord, keep our hearts and minds open to your word and your way. Amen.

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together: **God of freedom and miracles, we wait for your voice and direction this evening. We are so busy with the holiday celebrations and gatherings, yet the words of anguish arise around us. News of tragedy and war blare at us from all directions. Hear our cries, O Lord. Come and comfort and heal our wounds. Open our hearts this day that we might become people who bring peace and hope to those in despair. For we ask these things in the name of the master healer, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Godsightings:

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD (John 8:28-36)

Gospel reading – Please remain seated

Holy God, may we taste and see the good things you are doing in our lives.

May the words we hear inspire us to be your faithful followers. Amen.

A reading from John: So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to You, O Christ!

Today's message – Deb Davies

Song of Praise – "My Country 'Tis of Thee"

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

Let us pray: **Holy God, you have given us so much. Through your love and abundance, our cup overflows. From the bounty of your blessings, we offer these gifts back to you. Use these offerings for your glory, as we work to bring your kingdom here on earth. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

(Note: Worship leader will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers at this time.)

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

A Prayer for the World

Let us pray together a prayer for world peace: **Lord, Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our universe. Let us dream together, pray together and work together, To build one world of peace and justice for all. Amen**

The sending

Sending song: "America the Beautiful"

Benediction

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God.