

JULY 16, 2022 – SATURDAY SERVICE  
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER  
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

*Note: Pastor White will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service.  
Worshippers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People.*

**GATHERING**

Prelude: "Morning Has Broken"

Lighting of Candles

Greetings – Pastor Cindy White

The Gathering - Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Sharing of the peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Godsightings

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER**

The Procession (*Sung*)

JESUS CHRIST, YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD;

**the light no darkness can over come;**

STAY WITH US NOW, FOR IT IS EVENING,

**and the day is almost over.**

LET YOUR LIGHT SCATTER THE DARKNESS

**and shine within your people here.**

The Evening Hymn (*Sung by all*)

**Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,**

**You who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.**

**Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you,**

**God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.**

**In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,**

**of the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.**

**Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary**

**soul,**

**Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**

**You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,**

**make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.**

**Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,**

**Loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

The Evening Thanksgiving (*Sung*)

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU ALL,

(*Sung*) **And also with you;**

LET US SING OUR THANKS TO GOD,

**It is right to give God thanks and praise,**

BLESSED ARE YOU, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE - FROM OLD YOU HAVE LED YOUR PEOPLE BY NIGHT AND DAY. MAY THE LIGHT OF YOUR CHRIST MAKE OUR DARKNESS BRIGHT, FOR YOUR WORD AND YOUR PRESENCE ARE THE LIGHT OF OUR PATHWAYS, AND YOU ARE THE LIGHT AND LIFE OF ALL CREATION.

**Amen.**

The Psalm #141

*The Psalm is sung as a canon (round). Congregation and lead vocal sing the first two lines together. At the beginning of the third line ("O God, I call to you ...") the congregation begins to sing the same words two measures later. Pastor White will lead the congregation.*

**Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

**O God, I call to you, come to me now; O hear my voice when I cry to you.**

**Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

**Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.**

**Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

**All praise to the God of all, Creator of life; all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love.**

**Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

*(Silence for meditation)*

**PASTOR WHITE:** MAY OUR PRAYERS COME BEFORE YOU, O GOD, AS INCENSE, AND MAY YOUR PRESENCE SURROUND AND FILL US, SO THAT IN UNION WITH ALL CREATION, WE MIGHT SING YOUR PRAISE AND YOUR LOVE IN OUR LIVES.

*(Spoken)* **Amen.**

The Reading (Genesis 18:1-15) NIV

A reading from Genesis: The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say." So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

*(Silence for Meditation)*

### **PASTOR WHITE: THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS**

*(Spoken)* **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Message - Pastor Cindy White

The Offering Moment

**All: Loving Shepherd, we thank you for your tender care. Everything we have comes from the goodness of your love. Receive the gifts we return to you now, that sheep in other flocks may come to know you and discover that you are the one who lays down your life for the flock. Amen.**

The Annunciation (Please remain seated)

AN ANGEL WENT FROM GOD TO A TOWN CALLED NAZARETH TO A WOMAN WHOSE NAME WAS MARY. THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "REJOICE, O HIGHLY FAVORED, FOR GOD IS WITH YOU. YOU SHALL BEAR A CHILD, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE JESUS, THE CHOSEN ONE OF GOD MOST HIGH." AND MARY SAID, "I AM THE SERVANT OF MY GOD, I LIVE TO DO YOUR WILL."

The Magnificat *(Sung by all)*

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness ever more.  
How you favor the weak, and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.  
You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice strong your love,**

**As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.  
My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.**

The Litany

**R/ (Sung) God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
IN PEACE, IN PEACE, WE PRAY TO YOU:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
FOR PEACE AND SALVATION, WE PRAY TO YOU:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
FOR PEACE BETWEEN NATIONS, FOR PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLES:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
FOR WE WHO ARE GATHERED TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOU:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
FOR ALL OF YOUR SERVANTS WHO LIVE OUT YOUR GOSPEL:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
FOR ALL THOSE WHO GOVERN, THAT JUSTICE MIGHT GUIDE THEM:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
FOR ALL THOSE WHO LABOR IN SERVICE TO OTHERS:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
GRANT WEATHER THAT NOURISHES ALL OF CREATION:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
KEEP WATCH ON OUR LOVED ONES AND KEEP US FROM DANGER:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**  
FOR ALL THE BELOVED WHO REST IN YOUR MERCY:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

HELP US, COMFORT US, ALL OF OUR DAYS:  
**Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

PASTOR WHITE: GREAT AND MERCIFUL GOD, SOURCE AND GROUND OF ALL GOODNESS AND LIFE, GIVE TO YOUR PEOPLE THE PEACE THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING, AND THE WILL TO LIVE YOUR GOSPEL OF MERCY AND JUSTICE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

*(Spoken)* **Amen.**

Prayers of the people

Pastor White: God calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and concerns to God ...

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayers**

PASTOR WHITE: GOD, REMEMBER US IN YOUR LOVE, AND TEACH US TO PRAY: (SPOKEN)

**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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who  
trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever  
Amen.**

The final blessing

LET US BLESS OUR GOD:

*(Sung)* **Praise and thanks to you.**

PASTOR WHITE: MAY GOD, CREATOR BLESS US AND KEEP US, MAY CHRIST BE EVER LIGHT FOR OUR LIVES, MAY THE SPIRIT OF LOVE BE OUR GUIDE AND PATH, FOR ALL OF OUR DAYS.

*(Sung)* **Amen.**

A moment of reflection as candles are extinguished (light music in background)

**SENDING**

And all God's people say ... **Thanks be to God.**

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