

**SATURDAY EVENING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2023
GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS WEEKEND
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA**

Note: Pastor White 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: "Working Together" – Chris Loughrin

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

As we live in community with God and one another

May our hands be instruments of peace and love

For those who are in need of warmth and food

May our hands prepare quilts and a banquet

When a stranger is in our midst

May our hands extend a welcome.

For the teaching and instruction of all people

May our hands be the Word of God.

When injustice is in the world and in our communities

May our hands write letters and peacefully join others.

In times of sorrow, sickness and great suffering

May our hands embrace the broken and offer prayers

For those who are need of physical structures

May our hands build homes, schools, and wells.

God, may we be reminded what ever the need, large or small, you are at work in our hands.

May we serve generously, lovingly, and faithfully. Amen

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Gathering prayer

Gathering song: "God's Work, Our Hands" – Wayne L. Wold

God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

Evening prayer

Let us pray together: **Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling. Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless word of light eternal, now and forever. 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

Gospel reading – (Matthew 18:15-20)

Praise the Lord for the hearing of God's Holy Word. **Blessed are we when we live according to God's ways.**

A reading from Matthew: ¹⁵“If your brother or sister^[a] sins,^[b] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’^[c] ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be^[d] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[e] loosed in heaven.

¹⁹“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to You, O Christ!

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Song: “We Are Called” David Haas

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

Let us pray together: **These offerings we present to you, O Lord. May they be used for ministries of love through this community of faith.**

AMEN.

Song of praise – “I Give My Hands” - Estelle White

Announcements

Prayers of the People – Please remain seated

Jesus calls on us to follow him. Let us call on Jesus for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples ...

Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

The Lord’s Prayer – Spoken

The Sending

Thank you for being with us this evening. We invite you to our Sunday service tomorrow at 9 a.m. and join us for Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

Benediction

Just as God has called us here, God now sends us forth. Just as God has joined us here, God goes with us now. Go with the power of God to love and serve the world. Amen

Sending song: “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” – Collin Raye

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