



Good Morning and Welcome to those worshipping today in the sanctuary, and to those who are with us on-line.

Today is Stewardship Sunday and we welcome Rev. Glenn Sadler to the pulpit, while Pastor June is on vacation. Thank you for being here Pastor Glenn.

Special music is provided by Kirk Kupensky, well known harpist and principle harp for The Greenville Symphony. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with us today.

The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of Floyd and Eliza Mohr, by Janet Hills.

The Chancel Flowers are placed in memory of my mother Betty Klingensmith Wallace, by Nihla Wallace.

Ushers today at the front door are Kelly Bielata and family and at the back door George Donner and John Enterline.

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:15. The adults meet in the Anderson Lounge, JR/SR High students meet in the Youth Center and Elementary students meet in Fisher Hall. Everyone welcome!

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries
November 15, 2020 10:30 a.m.
Stewardship Sunday
A Time of Gathering

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Bill Henry

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Nolan Wig, Acolyte

PRELUDE Fantasia on Schubert's "Sei Mir Gegrüsst" F. Godefroid

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Have you ever wondered if our idea of "blessed" is different from God's? It is easy to feel "blessed" when everything is going great, but it is really hard to see the blessings when life is a struggle. Could it be that God "blesses" us so that we can "bless" others?

GATHERING SONG "For The Life That You've Been Given" (bulletin page 6)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Henry , Lector

Leader: We gather together this morning to proclaim the ways in which God is working around us.

People: We have been blessed by God!

Leader: We gather together to give thanks for the ways in which God is working within us.

People: We have been blessed by God!

Leader: We gather together to open our eyes to the ways God is using us to work.

People: We have been blessed by God!

Leader: God has given us so much and is very much alive, at work and still speaking among us. We are called to give back.

People: We are called to be good stewards; good stewards of our time, of our talent and of our treasure.

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all mercy, we confess before you and each other that we have been unfaithful to you. We lack love for our neighbors, we waste opportunities to do good, and we look the other way when you cry out to us in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need. We are sincerely sorry for our sins, both those we commit deliberately and those that we allow to overtake us.

**We ask your forgiveness and pray for strength that we may follow in your way and love all your people with that perfect love which casts out all fear; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen**

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE "God Will Take Care of You"

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
Beneath God's wings of love abide, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
God will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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 and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.
Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Sonata Pathetique"

Gertrude Ina Robinson

Kirk Kupensky, harp

Lori Seinar-Roknick, piano

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSONS 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 NLV (bulletin page 4)

Matthew 25: 14-30 NLV (bulletin page 5)

SERMON

"Blessed To Be a Blessing"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

God calls us to love and serve with body, mind, and spirit through loving our sisters and brothers. May our hearts be opened in compassion that we may give generously on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. You may drop off your offering in the office, mail your gift, use a bank bill pay service or use the "give" button on the website. Thank you for your continued support of Zion's ministries.

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "We Give Thee but Thine Own" (bulletin page 7)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE "La Source" by Alphonse Hasselmans

Our worship is ended and our service begins.

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and I could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'" *Erma Bombeck*

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 New Living Translation

⁶Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."⁸ ⁸And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor.

Their good deeds will be remembered forever."¹⁰ For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity¹¹ in you.

¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹²So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem¹² will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

¹³As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. ¹⁴And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵Thank God for this gift¹⁵ too wonderful for words!

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver^[a] to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’^[b]

²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

²³ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²⁴ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

²⁶ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

²⁸ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

684 For the Life That You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in Christ made known,

with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:

here we of - fer, Lord, our prais-es; heart and mind and strength we bring;

give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

688 We Give Thee but Thine Own

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be:
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,
4 The cap - tive to re - lieve, to God the lost to bring,
5 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to tend the lone and fa - ther - less is an - gels' work be - low.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

WORDS: William W. How (1823-1897)
MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
S.M.

**TAKE A TAG, HELP A CHILD
CLOTHES FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE GOOD
SHEPHERD CENTER CLIENTS**

Again this year, we hope to help provide some new clothing for children from families that qualify for services at the Good Shepherd Center. A tree will be loaded with child-specific tags on November 1. The tags will provide the information needed to shop for the child, i.e. boy or girl, size and age. All clothing can be brought to the church (unwrapped) by November 25.

Please call Julie if you would like to participate, but do not want to come into the church to pick up a tag. 724-588-6940

If you were not able to come to the blanket work day and would still like to make a fleece blanket, kits are available in the church office.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next Sunday, November 22 is Thanksgiving Sunday. The Chime Choir will offer special music and the Cooper and Forsyth Scholarships will be presented.

If you took a tag off of the tree, please have unwrapped clothing to the church by November 25.

The Hanging of the Greens service and the First Sunday of Advent is November 29.