

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

“First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

“Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.” She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “*Ephphatha!*” (which means “*Be opened!*”). *At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.*

Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

WELCOME TO ZION’S REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

260 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125

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Rev. Steven L. Craft, Senior Pastor

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**Welcome to
worship!**

**We're glad you
are here!**

The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of our loved ones, by Ron and Betty Mink and Family.

Ushering this month are Pat Seiple, Lori Tofani, Vanessa Saylor and Anita Powell.

The children are invited to the Youth Center after the Children's Sermon for Church Happening.

Everyone is invited to the Anderson Lounge after the service for coffee and conversation.

Large Print Bulletins and seat cushions are available in the back of the sanctuary. Coloring books and crayons are available for children.

Today is Rally Day and we welcome back the Sunday School students and teachers to a new year of learning about the teachings of Jesus Christ. Mrs. Frerotte teaches elementary students in the Youth Center and Rev. Glenn Sadler and Carol Holler teach adults in the Anderson Lounge. Both classes begin at 9:15 and everyone is welcome!

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

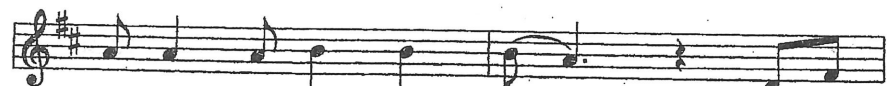
Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

*GATHERING SONG "He Has Made Me Glad"



I will en-ter his gates with thanks-giv-ing in my heart, I will



en - ter his courts with praise. I will



say, "This is the day that the Lord has made." I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.



He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.



He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re-joice, for he has made me glad.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Steven L. Craft, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

RALLY DAY

September 8, 2024 10:30 a.m.

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are
celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Julie Hills, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

THE ENTRANCE OF LIGHT

Sophie Powell, Acolyte

~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~

PRELUDE "Tell Me the Old, Old Story" Steven Scott

*GATHERING SONG "He Has Made Me Glad" (bulletin page 6)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to our God!

People: Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness.

Leader: Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise.

People: You O God, are the Holy God always and forever!

Leader: You are the Eternal One from whom all things come.

People: Come, let us enter into this sacred space with thanks.

Leader: O God, we are your children, created by and with your
love.

**People: Come, let us enter into this sacred space with joy and
delight.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 4 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We need your help in living life. We get frustrated so easily. We get so impatient with others. We say so many things we later regret. Too often we hurt those closest to us, make unwise use of our time, and participate in harboring grudges and sharing gossip. By your mercy O Lord, forgive our sins and help us to live in peace with each other. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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.**

~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~

CHILDREN’S SERMON

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO THIRD GRADERS - Debbie Frerotte

Emily Catherine Baker

Lincoln Claire Lewis

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.

*HYMN NO. 489 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

SCRIPTURES James 2:1-17 (bulletin page 7)
Mark 7:24-37 (back of bulletin)

SERMON “Work for Your Faith”

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music “In Quiet Faith” Edward Broughton

*Doxology No. 780

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 82 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*THE BENEDICTION and TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE “Go Your Way With Rejoicing” Douglass E. Wagner