Mt. Zion United Church of Christ 1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406

Telephone: 717-755-6117 E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org Website: <u>www.mtzionucc.org</u>

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor

Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

March 09, 2025 9:45 AM

First Sunday of Lent

Everything [in] Between¹ Stranger & Neighbor

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS & CONCERNS
INTRODUCTION TO THEME

PRELUDE

POEM Gray

by Cindy Hogentogler, read by Caitlin Damon

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

C: Who is my neighbor? How can I help? What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?

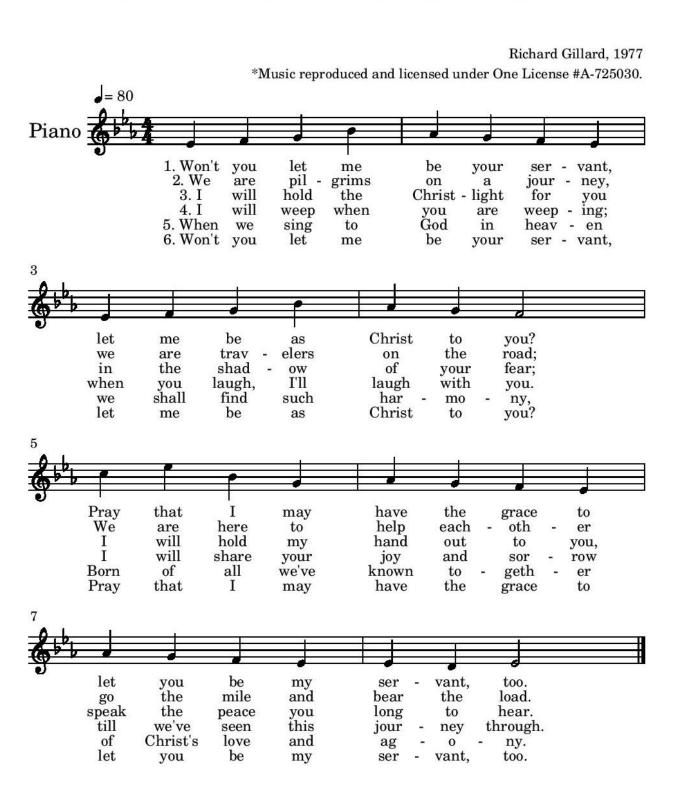
L: Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

L: This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

*GATHERING HYMN NCH # 539 (see below)

Servant Song

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant



*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

C: You have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Family of faith, When we set limits on love,

C: God loves extravagantly.

L: When we forget that we are neighbors,

C: God claims us as God's own.

L: When we judge, hold back, or harm,

C: God surrounds us with grace.

L: There is nothing we can do or leave undone that could separate us from the love of God.

C: This is the good news of the gospel.

L: It is this good news that assures us that this day you are forgiven, we all are forgiven by the grace of God.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*ACT OF PRAISE UM HYMNAL # 558 (refrain, v. 2, refrain, see below)

We Are the Church

ALL SING: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages too, from all times and places.

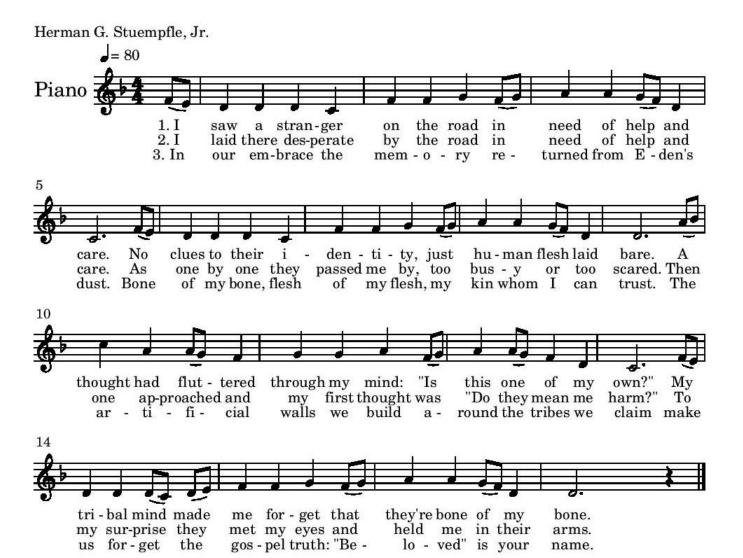
I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)

SERMON

I Saw a Stranger



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

What Love Is This

by Dengler

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP OFFERTORY
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 249 NCH (see next page)

Peace I Leave with You My Friends

BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

References

¹The Worship Liturgy was by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Welcome Team Members—Jesse & Nancy Smith, Faye Heal

<u>Liturgist</u>— Stella Fletcher

<u>Tech Team</u>— Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, & John Schriver

Guest Accompanist—Amy Peck

²The Poem Gray was written by Cindy Hogentogler

³©Anna Strickland, 2024. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

