

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406
Telephone: 717-755-6117
E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org
Website: www.mtzionucc.org

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

June 22, 2025

9:45 AM

Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown
Creation of the Bible

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! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (played by Hayden McCarthy)

O Worship the King

by Grant

GATHERING LITURGY¹

L: We gather today as seekers of discovery, Carried by wonder, Embraced by mystery, Drawn here by the God who is always revealing more.

C: We come with expectant hearts, Ready to meet the Living God.

L: This is the wonder we cannot keep silent:

C: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts: that the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted His Son to the care of ordinary people, and became vulnerable that we might know the strength and wonder of His Love. A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp. A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

L: Let us worship this God of wonder, mystery, and love.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

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$\text{♩} = 150$

Piano

1. Come and find the quiet center in the
2. Si-lence is a friend who claims us, cools the
3. In the Spir-it let us tr-av-el, o-pen

4

crowd-ed life we lead, find the room for hope to
heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and
to each oth-er's pain, let our loves and fears un-

7

en-ter, find the frame where we are freed; Clear the
na-mes us, knows our be-ing, touch-es base, mak-ing
-rav-el, cel-e-brate the space we gain: There's a

10

cha-os and the clut-ter, clear our eyes that we can
space with-in our think-ing, lift-ing shades to sh-ow the
place for deep-est dream-ing, there's a time for heart to

13

see all the things that real-ly ma-ter, be at
sun, rais-ing cour-age when we're shri-nk-ing, find-ing
care, in the Spir-its live-ly schem-ing there is

16

peace, and sim-ply be.
scope for faith be-gun.
al-ways room to spare.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

TIME OF CONFESSION²

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

C: you invite us to live in mystery—to walk by faith, not by sight.

But we confess: we prefer certainty. We long for clear paths, fixed plans, and predictable outcomes. You call us to trust in your promises, to see the world through your eyes of mercy. But too often, we rely on our own understanding, measuring life by what we can control.

You speak of new creation, of old things passing away and everything becoming new. But we hold on to the familiar, afraid to let go of what no longer gives life. It is hard to live by faith. Forgive us, O God of mercy.

Forgive us for playing god, for clinging to illusions of control, instead of resting in your mystery and love. Teach us again to walk by faith. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear this good news: The God who scattered stars across the heavens also plants seeds of grace in the soil of your soul. Though the work is hidden, though the growth is a mystery, God is making all things new—even you. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, we all are forgiven, set free to live by faith, and called to grow in love.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC (sung by Nova Ramsey & Olivia Abbott) *Jesus Loves Me* Traditional

SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:1-9, 14-16 (CEB)

INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 319 NCH (see next page)

Wonderful Words of Life

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Wonderful Words of Life

Philip P. Bliss, 1847

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Sing them o - ver a - gain to me,
 2. Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all
 3. Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call,

3

won-der-ful words of life; let me more of their beau-ty see,
 won-der-ful words of life; sin - ner, wake to the lov-ing call,
 won-der-ful words of life; of - fer par-don and peace to all,

7

won-der-ful words of life; Words of life and beau - ty
 won-der-ful words of life; All so free - ly giv - en,
 won-der-ful words of life;

11

teach me faith and du - ty. Beau-ti-ful words, won-der-ful words,
 our sure hope of heav-en.

15

won-der-ful words of life. Beau-ti - ful words,

18

won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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.

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

All Who Are Thirsty

by Brown and Robertson

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 522 NCH** (see next page)

I Love to Tell the Story

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C Major

by Bach

References

¹The opening liturgy includes the writing of John Birch, posted on [Faith and Worship - Prayers and Resources](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html) and used with permission as accessed at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/sending-mystery-so-deep.html> on 6/11/25.

²The prayer of confession is inspired by the work of by Peter Bankson. Posted on the **Worship Elements** page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/> and accessed on 6/11/25.

Welcome Team Members—Jeff & Nancy Sleeper, Connie & John Wolfe

Liturgist— Deb Herlocker

Tech Team— George DeMers, Jack Herlocker, & John Schriver

Special Musicians—Olivia Abbott, Hayden McCarthy, & Nova Ramsey

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866

William G. Fischer, 1869

*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written for piano on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score consists of five systems of music, each with four-part vocal harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal parts.

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove. Of
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems than
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry; it's plea - sant to re - peat what
 4. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

6

Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end less love. I love to tell the sto - ry, be -
 all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold en dreams. I love to tell the sto - ry, I
 seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the sto - ry, for
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest. And when I sing in glo - ry, I

12

- cause I know it's true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do. I
 tell it now to you be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 know the new, new song will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

18

love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of

24

Je - sus' end - less love.