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

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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor

Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director

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

August 17, 2025 9:45 AM

Biblical Detectives: Discovering the Unknown Prayer

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
JOYS & CONCERNS
PRELUDE (sung by the Saints)

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.

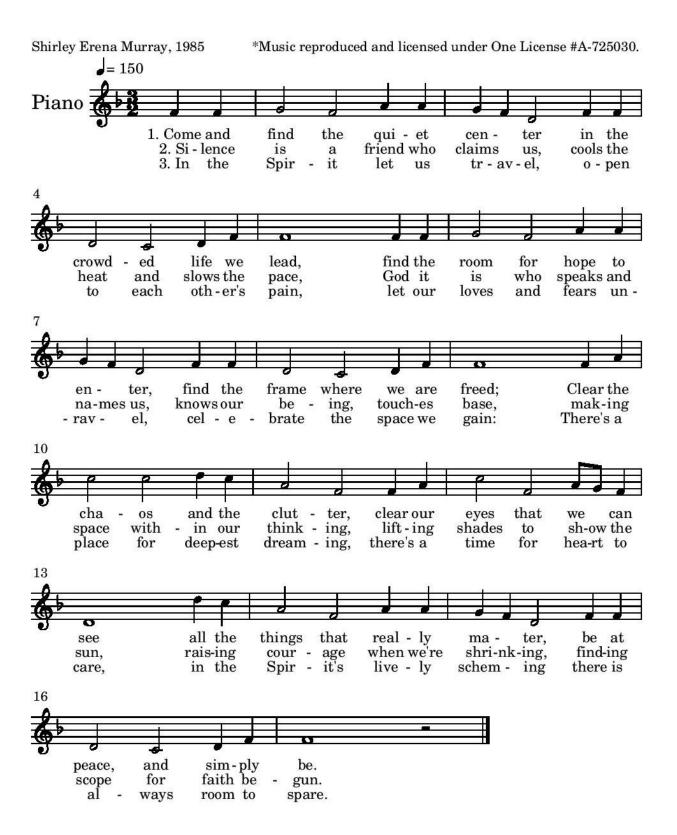
L: This is the wonder we cannot keep silent:

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



^{*}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

L: 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

SCRIPTURE Luke 22:39-46 (CEB)

Philippians 4:6-7 (CEB)

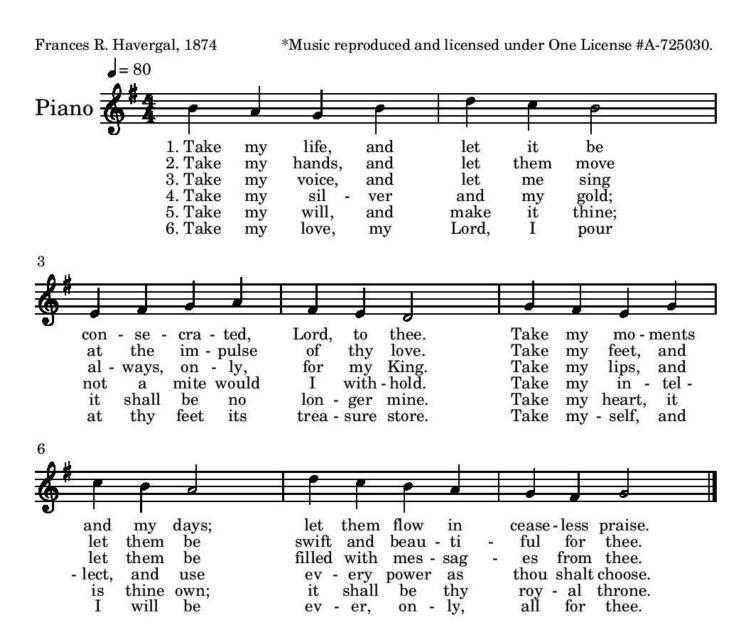
INVESTIGATING THE QUESTIONS

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 2171 FWS (see next page)

Take My Life and Let it Be

^{*}Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Take My Life, and Let It Be



^{*}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

Nearer, My God to Thee

by Raney

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NCH NO. 505 (see next page)

Sweet Hour of Prayer

*BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

Gospel Medley

arr. Tate

References

¹The opening liturgy includes the writing of John Birch, posted on <u>Faith and Worship</u> - <u>Prayers and Resources</u> and used with permission as accessed at https://reworship.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.

<u>Welcome Team Members—</u>Brenda & Jim Beyer, Jesse & Nancy Sleeger
<u>Liturgist—</u> Jen Miller
<u>Tech Team—</u> Ron Miles, Paul Ramsey
<u>Special Musicians—</u> The Saints

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845 *Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030. = 80Piano : 1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a 2. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the I feel, the joys 3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe world of care, and bids Mak-er's throne let at all myneeds and me my I share of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing - ti - tion bear to wants be known. In sea-sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has your re-turn! With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my soul to bless. And since I'm bid seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and to 13 found re - lief, and es-caped the tempt-er's snare by oft your re-turn, sweet Sav-ior's face, And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet trust God's grace, I'll cast a-way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet 17 hour of prayer!

hour

hour

of prayer!

of prayer!