### 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

October 12, 2025 9:45 AM

# <u>Spaces of Renewal</u>

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 INTRODUCTION TO THEME

**PRELUDE** Morning Songs arr. Tate

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come, people of God, ready to build your faith.

C: We are living stones, gathered in God's house.

L: God takes away our hearts of stone.

C: God gives us hearts of flesh.

L: God washes us with clean water.

C: God renews our spirits.

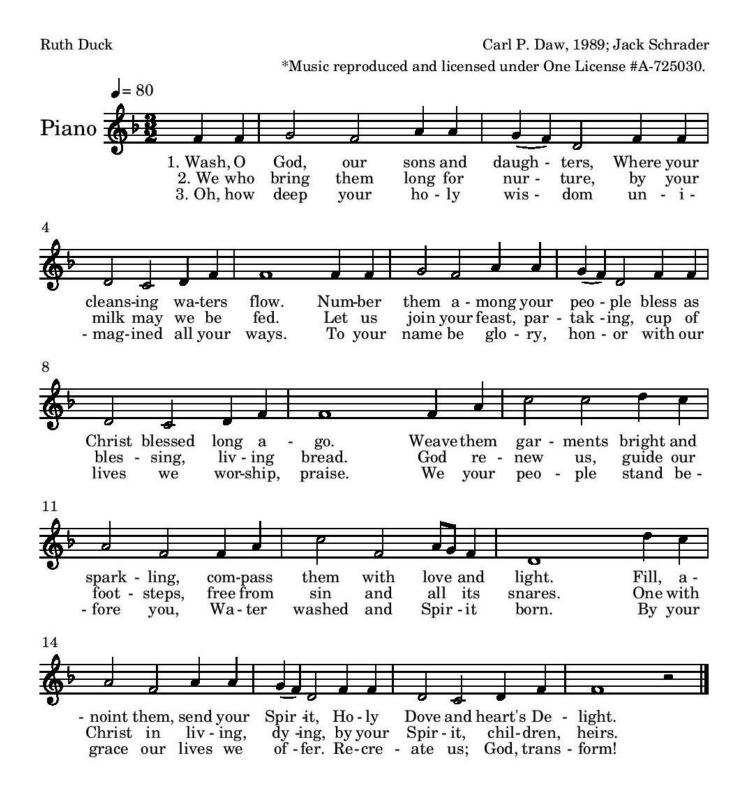
L: Come, let us worship the God of renewal.

C: We worship the One who makes all things new.

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable as we start this new day turning our hearts to God in praise.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

#### \*TIME OF CONFESSION

**CALL TO CONFESSION** 

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we grow weary and hardened. Our hearts become heavy with bitterness, our spirits dry from worry and fear. Forgive us, O God. Pour out Your Spirit upon us. Take away our stony hearts and give us hearts alive with Your love.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: God's Spirit renews us, softens our hearts, and restores our souls.

C: In Christ, we are forgiven and renewed. Thanks be to God!

**ACT OF PRAISE** 

Spaces of Renewal (to the tune of the Doxology)

ALL SING: Praise God who breathes new life again, Revives the soul and heals our pain; From hearts of stone to hearts set free, Renewed in love eternally.

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 36:24-28 (CEB)

**SERMON** 

**INVITATION INTO RITUAL** 

SPECIAL MUSIC Down to the River to Pray African-American Spiritual

#### **BLESSING OVER THE STONES OF RENEWAL**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please note that during the prayers of the people there will be a time for individuals to name aloud their joys and concerns as invited by our liturgist.)

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.

<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

#### TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY Home Across the River Medley

arr. Labenske

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

L: Generous God, here are our gifts of time; here are our gifts of talents; here are our gifts of money; building stones for Your Kingdom, awaiting shaping and placing within Your loving purpose.

C: Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN (see next page)

Down In My Heart

\*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** Rain Down by Cortez

#### References

<sup>1</sup>The Offertory Prayer is written by Rev Dr Derek Browning, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/

<u>Welcome Team Members</u>—Tori Everhart, Barb Stebbins <u>Guest Preacher</u>—Michael Maletz

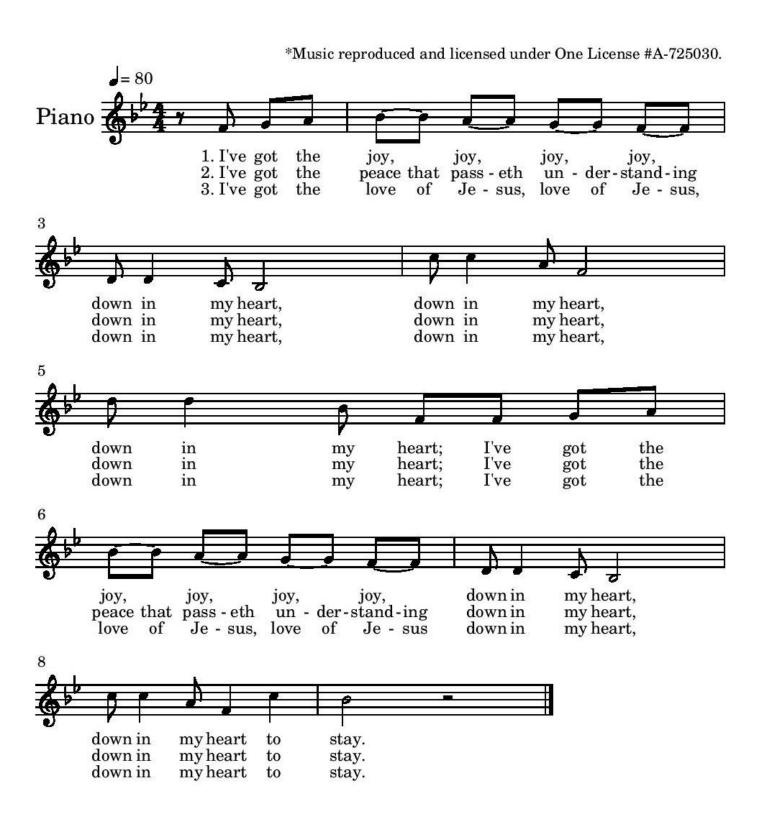
<u>Liturgist</u> Stella Fletcher

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

\*The brick graffiti wall symbolizes the strength of a community built stone by stone, brick by brick. Though bricks are shaped by human hands and stones by the earth itself, together they remind us that God works through both the natural and the crafted to build sacred spaces. Each week, a new word will be added, proclaiming God's presence in our life together and marking this wall as a holy witness to faith. Thank you to the altarscape team for their visioning and sharing of gifts to make our Sanctuary space a beautiful offering to God in this season: Jodi Bender, Danika Dallam, Cindy Hogentogler, Barb Neff, & Melody Stine.

<sup>\*</sup>Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy



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