

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ



**Opening Worship
Saturday, June 4th
2022 Annual Meeting**

The Spirituality of Praising God

Call to Worship

Let us set aside conversations. Let us open our minds and hearts to the living God.

Let us seek the living God in the people around us, in the sessions being held today, and in the wonderful world outside!

Hymn - "In the Bulb There Is A Flower" - # 433 New Century Hymnal (NCH) -
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In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Scripture - Psalm 97 from The Message by Eugene Peterson

God rules: there's something to shout over!
On the double, mainlands and islands—celebrate!

Bright clouds and storm clouds circle 'round him;
Right and justice anchor his rule.

**ALL: Fire blazes out before him,
Flaming high up the craggy mountains.**

His lightnings light up the world;
Earth, wide-eyed, trembles in fear.

The mountains take one look at God
And melt, melt like wax before earth's Lord.

The heavens announce that he'll set everything right,
And everyone will see it happen—glorious!

**ALL - All who serve handcrafted gods will be sorry—
And they were so proud of their ragamuffin gods!**

On your knees, all you gods—worship him!
And Zion, you listen and take heart!

Daughters of Zion, sing your hearts out:
God has done it all, has set everything right.

You, God, are High God of the cosmos,
Far, far higher than any of the gods.

**ALL - God loves all who hate evil,
And those who love him he keeps safe,
Snatches them from the grip of the wicked.**

Light-seeds are planted in the souls of God's people,
Joy-seeds are planted in good heart-soil.

So, God's people, shout praise to God,
Give thanks to our Holy God!

Prayer

O creating God. O Sustaining God. O Ruling God.

ALL - O God of fun and God of firmness.

When your created earth seems to be on its last legs, surprise us. Energize us and give us fresh ideas that work if it is your will that this earth shall continue to nourish us in body, mind, and spirit. Put us on our knees when the brilliant morning sun shares the sky with a full moon that lingers into the new day. Put us on our knees when earth turns green each year of our lives. We give thanks to you, our Holy God! In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

Call to Begin Our Work

May we be refreshed with boldness to do this day's work with worship in our hearts!

ALL – Thanks be to God – Amen!

Thanks to our worship leaders:

L1 – Dan Brubeck

L2 – Jessica Reese

L3 – Mary Loiselle