

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CENTER VALLEY, PA
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 16, 2021

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, our source of light and life, you lead the way to courage, kindness, generosity, and love. You call us to be your people and to live in community with one another, always moving to a place of wholeness. God, your love makes us whole. Help us to receive your love with open hearts, so that we may become attuned to your will and way. We ask that you strengthen us as your people, gathered to praise and to serve you. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: This is the day that God has made.

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor: Let us worship the One who turns our sorrow into joy.

People: Our despair into hope.

Pastor: Our doubt into faith.

People: Let us feel the wind of the Spirit refresh our lives.

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

***CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Pastor: God of grace, we confess that we have done things we should not have done

People: and we have left undone things we should have done.

Pastor: Forgive us, we pray.

People: Loving God, we confess that we have not trusted you with our whole hearts,

Pastor: and we have not always been faithful witnesses.

People: We confess that we are sometimes wrapped up in our individual lives,

Pastor: with little time for Christian community.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: Forgive us and strengthen us in your Spirit. Amen.

***ASSURANCE**

*THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE - *Based on St. Patrick, facing each other:*

Unison: Christ's peace be with you,
Christ's peace within you,
Christ's peace behind you,
Christ's peace before you,
Christ's peace beside you,
Christ's peace to win you,
Christ's peace to comfort you and restore you. Christ's peace be with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Joan Hassler

Psalter: Psalm 1

New Testament: Acts 1:15 – 17, 21 – 26

Gospel: John 17:6 – 19

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *A Final Request*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *ALWAYS* - Switchfoot

Darin Jellison

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *LITANY, WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK*

Pastor: We are God's work of art—
each one of us a precious gem,
a marvelous melody,
a potter's delight.

People: We are God's handiwork—
woven together in love,
shaped with infinite compassion,
painted with incredible beauty.

Pastor: We are the church of Jesus Christ—
diverse in human qualities,
but united in our call to love God
with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

People: We are the Body of Christ—
living in his truth, sharing his peace,
carrying his hope, embodying his love,
throughout the world he loved so much.

Pastor: We are here to be reminded once more who we are,

whose we are and what our lives are about.

People: **We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.**

***HYMN: REJOICE, GIVE THANKS AND SING**

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*1 Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*2 Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*3 Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*4 Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faithful up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet's sound, "Rejoice!"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God our Creator, we give thanks that we are here together, that we live this day. We come with praise, celebration, and hope for renewal. We give thanks for believers everywhere, for that great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us. May your presence be known to each of us at the point of our need.

People: **We lift our hurts, our disappointments, our hopes, and our dreams.**

Pastor: We come seeking guidance for decisions about our relationships and vocational choices.

People: **We come with concerns about our health or the health of others. We come in grief about the losses in our lives.**

Pastor: Hear our prayer, O God.

People: **Help us sort out the different influences and opportunities in our lives as we strive to live for you.**

Pastor: We pray that we will be numbered among the blessed, that we will be among those who are the poor in spirit, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who show mercy, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers.

People: **We know what is required of us, and we pray in faith in your power, in hope for your Kin-dom, and in love for one another.**

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.

We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

HYMN: JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

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*1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.*

Refrain:

*In the cross, in the cross Be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find Rest beyond the river.*

*2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star Shed its beams around me. [Refrain]*

*3 Near the cross! O lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;
Help me live from day to day With its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]*

*4 Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river. [Refrain]*

***THE DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dear God, may these material gifts reflect our gratitude for your presence in our lives. We pray your blessing on their use, and on us as we offer ourselves in your service. Use them and us as witnesses to your redemptive love and grace. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***CLOSING HYMN: SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT**

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*1 There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

Refrain:

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us,
Filling us with Your love, And for these blessings We lift our hearts in praise,
Without a doubt we'll know That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.*

*2 There are blessings you cannot receive till you know that Spirit's fullness and
believe; you're the one to profit when you say, "I am going to stay with Jesus all
the way." [Refrain]*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Special thanks to our volunteers:

*Head Usher: Kim Ritter
Ushers: Joan Hassler, Cindy Talaber
Lay Reader: Joan Hassler
Special Music: Darin Jellison
Stream Team: Justin Koser
Financial Secretary: Jerry Trexler*