

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

August 15, 2021

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

**OPENING MEDITATION:** *“God will hold us responsible for all the wonderful things that we have refused to enjoy.”*

– *Anonymous*

### A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

*Almighty God, how wonderful you are. Creation cries out in awe of your power. The universe shines with your glory and greatness. Almighty Lord, each atom and molecule carry a tiny part of your plan. Each life resounds with intricacy and miracles. I will lift my eyes to you, my wonderful, majestic, awesome God.*

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

**CALL TO WORSHIP: *HERE I AM TO WORSHIP***

Light of the world you stepped down into darkness opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore you... Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship... Here I am to bow down... Here I am to say that  
You're my God

You're altogether lovely... Altogether worthy... Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days ...Oh so highly exalted Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the Earth You created...All for love's sake became poor

*Here I am to worship...Here I am to bow down... Here I am to say that  
You're my God*

*You're altogether lovely ... Altogether worthy...Altogether wonderful to me  
I'll never know how much it cost, to see my sin upon that cross*

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*Here I am to worship... Here I am to bow down...Here I am to say that*

*You're my God*

*You're altogether lovely... Altogether worthy... Altogether wonderful to me*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

\* **SENTENCES OF ADORATION:** *A Gift From God* by John P. Read

Leader: Love can't be described, it has no shape, and it has no form.

People: Love is not an object. Love does not conform.

Leader: Love enters our lives, the moment we are born.

**People: From the cradle to the grave, when we laugh, when we mourn.**

Leader: Love burns like a candle that flickers but never dies.

**People: Love may be invisible, although it's right before our eyes.**

Leader: Love can leave you empty, love can make you whole.

**People: Love can make or break you, love is in your soul.**

Leader: Love is in your heart, love is in your mind.

**People: Love doesn't discriminate, love is always blind.**

Leader: Love is universal, it encompasses the globe.

**People: No matter where you are, love has a language all its own.**

Leader: Love is all around you, there's plenty of love to spare.

**People: You cannot see or touch it, but love is everywhere.**

Leader: Love's the greatest power, and yet it is so small.

**People: Love's a gift from God, to be shared amongst us all.**

**Unison: We love others best when we love God most of all.**

### REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

**Unison:**

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth about our lives:**

**We confess that it is fear that keeps us from embracing each other in love.**

**We confess that it is prejudice that blinds us from showing grace to one another.**

**We confess that ignorance hobbles us, and that doubt plagues us.**

**We also confess that we are sometimes trapped in our own thoughts because we are striving for perfection and want to be in control.**

**Help us, we pray, to surrender to your will and to focus on Jesus' commandments**

**to love you and our neighbors unconditionally.**

**May we see the world with new and gracious vision and may we realize that we will never know how much it cost to see our sin upon that cross.**

**Amen.**

#### **\*THE KYRIE**

**750**

*Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us*

*People: Lord, have mercy upon us*

*Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us*

*People: Christ, have mercy upon us*

*Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us*

*People: Lord, have mercy upon us*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Leader: As spoken by Paul in Romans 5:1: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Be at peace brothers and sisters knowing your sins are forgiven.

**People: Amen**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

**People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise**

**\* GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory to the creator, the Christ the Holy Spirit Three-in-One as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**\* RESPONDING to GOD'S GRACE**

As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other, let us greet each other with the peace of Christ using American Sign Language.

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Empty us, Great God, of all that prevents us from hearing what you want us to hear. Empty us of our preconceptions, our preoccupations and our prejudices. Empty us that we might be filled with your Spirit and your Word. Empty us that we might be filled for ministry and mission. Help us focus on your message for us today. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

**Old Testament: 1 Samuel 16:1-7**

**New Testament: Hebrews 3:1-2**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

**\*HYMN: *For the Beauty of the Earth***

**28**

1 For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and  
flower, sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain]

3 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and  
friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

4 For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude, For a faith that  
never tires, and for every heart renewed, [Refrain]

**MESSAGE: Where Focus Goes, Energy Flows.**

**DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK**

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**Lord, in life and in death we belong to you.**

**We believe the commandments taught to us by your son to love you and each other.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit justifies us through grace and sets us free to accept ourselves the way you made us.**

**We believe you empower our Church to unmask idolatries, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to you God, we strive to focus on serving Christ in our daily tasks and we pledge to refocus our attention so that we will live holy and joyful lives.**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, Strengthen your Church to go out into the world and serve those who need to be delivered from their hardships.

**Unison: Strengthen us, O God, to serve our community with zeal and joy.**

**Leader:** Work through us, your church and your chosen people, to help bring light to this community.

**Unison: Hold us be accountable for the restoration to those who are broken and are in need of a touch from the Lord.**

**Leader:** Fill us with the fire that urges us to be your witnesses through service;

**Unison: Come with filling power, O God.**

**Leader:** Sustain those who face long illness, bearing them up on the wings of faith and courage;

**Unison: Renew within us a spirit of mission, O God.**

**Leader:** Lord God, you are a healer to those who need healing and a comforter to those who need comforting. Hear now the names of those who weigh heavy on our hearts:

*(The names of specific people, places, and circumstances may be lifted up at this time)*

**Leader:** Let us pray together the prayer that your Son taught us:

**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

## SPECIAL MUSIC: *I CAN ONLY IMAGINE* OFFERATORY RESPONSE—THE DOXOLOGY

*Darin Jellison*

*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:

Leader: God said, if you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

**Unison: Lord of Heaven and Earth, we long to be faithful**

**givers, we return a small portion back to You, the one who has given everything to us.**

**May your Spirit of abundance, grace these gifts and may they be of use in the world in service of your love for all people.**

**In this hour of worship, help us to grasp the freedom that comes from seeing you more clearly, loving you more dearly, and following you more nearly.**

**Day by day, give us strength and courage to be your people in this time, in this place. Amen**

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

### CLOSING HYMN: *REJOICE, YOU PURE IN HEART*

55

1 Rejoice, O pure in heart, lift praises to the sky; your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spirits meek, raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak. [Refrain]

3 With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise, Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days. [Refrain]

4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go, From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. [Refrain]

5 Praise God, who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore, Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore! [Refrain]

## **BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

### **MEDITATION:**

*Nature reveals to us God's beauty, glory, power, wisdom, presence, creativity, and, most of all, his loving care.*

### **POSTLUDE**

**Welcome to Faith Church this Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost.** We are glad to have you worshiping with us. May our time together serve as an inspiration for the days and weeks ahead.

**Special thanks to Chuck and Karen Talboo** for leading us in worship this morning and to **Darin Jellison** for sharing special music.

**Pastor Bruce will return from vacation tomorrow.** If you find yourself in need of pastoral care until then please call **Pastor Christian Creyer** of Chestnut Hill UCC Church at **484-866-5229**.

**Recycling starts again! Beginning TODAY we will be collecting plastic shopping bags and all other soft plastic bags.** (See list included in bulletin.

Larger print lists are available in the Narthex.) By February 15, 2022 we need to collect 500 pounds of recyclable plastic in order to earn another **TREX bench!**

Let's save our oceans and the animals that live there by turning these materials into a reusable product! Questions?? See Jerry Trexler.

### **Faith UCC Yard Sale**

**Start cleaning out your clothes and toy closets, attics, and basements!** We will hold our Yard Sale on **Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** and are collecting your donations through **August 31<sup>st</sup>!**

Thank you ahead of time for your help with this part of the yard sale. (The Fundraising committee is requesting that the items you plan to donate are in good shape and sellable. We would like to concentrate our time on sorting and pricing, so if you think it is worth something please donate it, but if it is bordering on trash please dispose of it and save us time.)

**Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items. You'll find a sign up sheet and schedule in the Narthex. Any questions, please contact Ruth Smith at 610-797-4635.**

*Mark your Calendars...*

**FALL BINGO IS RETURNING ON NOVEMBER 7, 2021! Look for more details in the upcoming September FOCUS ON FAITH.**

## CALENDAR

TODAY -10:15 Worship  
 MONDAY -9-4 Sandy works from home  
 She will be checking messages throughout the day but if you need immediate help call her at 610-967-6232  
 TUESDAY -9-4 Sandy in office  
 -6:30 – 8 Faith in Stitches  
 -7:00 Back To Church Sunday Zoom Mtg  
 WEDNESDAY -9-4 Sandy in office  
 THURSDAY -9-4 Sandy in office  
 -2:00 Mission Meeting  
 FRIDAY -Office Closed  
 SUNDAY -10:15 Worship

*Those Who Will Serve:*

	<b>August 15</b>	<b>August 22</b>
Head Usher:	Joan Hassler	Joan Hassler
Ushers:	Jerry & Elaine Trexler	Caroline Frantz Joan Hassler
Lay Reader:	Jerry Trexler	Barb Maursky
Fin. Sec.	Tony DiSanto	Tony DiSanto
Lawn	Terry Muth/Glenn Gunkle	Tom Herstine



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