

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**5992 Route 378
Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
610.282.3939**

**Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Lead Pastor
Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist-Director of Music**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

God, we thank you for life. For blood flowing well, for hearts pumping faithfully, for lungs breathing even when we are not paying attention. For the everyday miracle of our existence, we thank you. May we be reminded that everyone we meet is like us; a living miracle. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

* **OPENING HYMN: IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE** 1

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Earth is God's and the fullness thereof.

People: The universe comes from God and everything that lives in God.

Pastor: The glory of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

People: Nothing happens outside of God's love. Everything is in God.

Pastor: Everything is one in God.

People: Everything is one.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

God, we know only too well how it feels to be assessed and judged because of age, gender, nationality, or appearance. And we confess that we have too readily done the same to others. We confess that we have damaged others by grouping them based on external criteria, on our own assumptions and

prejudices. We confess that we have often found it easier to assign people to categories than we have to get to know them for who they are. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

*** THE KYRIE**

750

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.

*** THE GLORIA PATRI**

759

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.

*** 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.**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Proverbs 22:1 – 2, 8 – 9, 22 – 23

New Testament: Mark 7:24 – 37

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**We believe in God above us,
Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in Christ beside us,
Companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of
our universe.**

**We believe in Spirit deep within us,
Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.**

**We believe in God's resurrection created world,
Where all things are fixed, and all creation fits together in
vibrant harmonies.**

**We believe in God above, beside, within,
God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in
three,**

We believe in God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Pastor: We come now Holy One into your presence; bend your
ear towards us if you will so that our prayers and
supplications may be heard, so that we can bring our
deepest desires before you. We thank you for our lives
and our economies, and for the reconciliation and hope
brought forth through the work of Jesus Christ.**

**We pray for the indigent, the homeless, those who are
starving and the oppressed; set free from those bonds
which keep them from living fully and we pray for those
also who hold them down. Let justice in this world**

prevail so that the work all people who lived and died in the name of freedom and equality may be carried on and, if we even dare pray ended in our lifetime. Oh Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those people, known and unknown who are sick in body, mind or spirit, for those live with mental illness, with cancer, with HIV/aids, with the uncertainty of knowing 'just what's wrong', for the addicted and recovering, and for those whose lives will not be long upon this earth. Grant your healing and restoration upon them, give them peace and strength for their journey's ahead. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our country and our leaders, for all who are in a position of authority over others; grant to them moral and ethical decision-making, clear sight and vision for a future filled with hope and freedom. Lord, hear our prayer.

We lift up men and women as they serve in the armed forces so that we can remain free. Give to them strength and stamina for what we have called them to do, keep them from harm's way, and grant to them forbearance in their tours. Send peace to this world O Lord it hurts so right now. O Lord, hear our prayer.

For our children and for the world's children we give you thanks. May tears never drown their laughter and may they grow into their fullest potential showing your love, kindness, and grace. Lord, hear our prayers and grant to us healing in the process.

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

Pastor: 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

**SPECIAL MUSIC: *MORNING HAS BROKEN* – Eleanor Farjeon
performed by John Barone**

- * **OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY** **780**
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:**
Source of all goodness and compassion, move us this day to be generous in our giving and care. May we not hold back in fear or self-protection but give so that others might find renewed meaning and hope in this life, at this time. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * **CLOSING HYMN: *WHAT A COVENANT*** **471**
* **BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**
* **MEDITATION**

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted into our hearts through your grace,

that they may produce in us the fruits of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** POSTLUDE**

*Would those who are able please stand.

Welcome to Faith Church this Fourteenth 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 John Barone for sharing special music this morning.

The church office will be closed on Monday in observance of Labor Day.

A New Member Orientation Class will be held next Sunday, September 12th from 2-3 pm. If interested please let Pastor Bruce know.

Recycling has started! We are collecting plastic shopping bags and all other soft plastic bags. Let's save our oceans and the animals that live there by turning these materials into another TREX BENCH! Questions?? See Jerry Trexler.

Faith UCC Yard Sale – September 25, 8am – 2 pm

Tuesday, August 31st is the last day to drop off donations for the yard sale on September 25th. Help is needed on the day of the sale to set up, man tables, and clean up. We are also looking for baked goods donations. If you are willing to help please contact Brenda Hovis.

CALENDAR

TODAY	-10:15 Worship
MONDAY	-Labor Day/Office Closed
TUESDAY	-6:30 – 8 Faith in Stitches
FRIDAY	-Office Closed
SUNDAY	-10:15 Worship/Joyful Noise

Those Who Will Serve:

September 5

September 12

Head Usher:	Caroline Frantz	Caroline Frantz
Ushers:	Brenda Hovis Diane Neidermeier	Michele Keeler Cindy Talaber
Lay Reader:	Joan Hassler	Cindy Talaber
Fin. Sec.	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Lawn	Dwayne Schantz Roger Erney	Bruce Torrence Wes Koser

Contact Information:

Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com

Lead Pastor: 610-866-7425; pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org

Director of Music: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY **September 19, 2021**

*We've been apart for too long!
Let's finally worship together as the **COMMUNITY**
that God calls us to be!*

Usually, we celebrate Rally Day as the day we begin all of the church's programs after a more relaxed pace of the summer but now we have greater reasons to celebrate ... while COVID-19 isn't totally behind us, with so many vaccinated we have returned to in-person worship and celebrate many of the things that bring us joy. On September 19th we will receive new members, celebrate the sacrament of baptism, and enjoy the fellowship of a church picnic after worship.

Hope to see you all there!