

**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  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

**A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE**

*God, we are here to worship. We are here to listen. We are here to know. We are here to be known. You know me. Help me today to know you more fully. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**SENTENCES OF ADORATION**

\* **OPENING HYMN: O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING** 42

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Pastor:** Every day, God calls out to God's world in love. Every day.

**People:** Today, at this moment, we can pause and listen.

**Pastor:** Come, celebrate. God is calling your name.

**REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

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

**Pastor:** God, Jehovah, Yahweh, Father, Wisdom, Creator, King, Servant, Abba...

**Unison:** With every name we give you, God, we understand something new about your nature. And yet we have been guilty too often of being satisfied with too little. We have allowed one name, or a small number, to limit our understanding of you. We confess to our limited imaginations and our unwillingness to explore, change, and grow. We confess to being unwilling to grow in our understanding of who you are.

\* **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 1:20 – 33

New Testament: Mark 8:27 – 38

**THE CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**HYMN: *TAKE MY LIFE, GOD, LET IT BE***

448

**SERMON: *The Price of Victory***

## DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

### \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: Who do we say you are? Who do we confess you to be?

**People: Prophet, Healer, Teacher – all three!**

Pastor: What else can be said though, are there other big terms to share?

**People: Messiah, Christ, and Master – if we so dare!**

Pastor: Yet there has to be more than this, for words say little, words say too much. What says the heart of yours? What thoughts or yearnings seek to be expressed?

**People: Feelings of love, full experiences of grace; a call within that challenges and gives rest.**

Pastor: How then should we name this One? How best do we confess him to be?

**People: Jesus – the world's fulfillment – the hope of truly becoming me!**

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God, when the disciple Peter answered Jesus' question by calling him the Christ, the Messiah, he echoed the hope of the world for salvation. Today we pray for all those who need saving. We pray for those who need salvation from war, violence, hunger, neglect. We pray for all people everywhere who, through oppression, are held down from being the people you call them to be. It is our prayer, God, that all of us, in every part of the world, will have the opportunity to know the work and the way of the Christ.

*(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: NO LONGER SLAVES – Bethel Music**

*Darin Jellison*

**\* 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:**

**God of the Universe, thank you that your promises are sure, you are faithful, I can rely on you. Your word says that we will find joy in offering our time, talents, and money to meet the needs of others. Help us to give freely, sacrificially and cheerfully towards the work of your kingdom. May you cause the seeds that we sow to grow into well-watered, fruitful trees of life. Lord, bless us and keep us, make your face shine upon us. Turn your face towards us and give us peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\* CLOSING HYMN: LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING**

\* **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 Sixteenth 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 Darin Jellison** for sharing special music this morning.

**Parish Administrator Sandy David will be using a vacation day on Monday and returning to the office on Tuesday.**

**A New Member Orientation Class will be held next today from 2-3 pm. If interested please let Pastor Bruce know after worship.**

**Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 19, BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY at 9:00.** Currently students must wear masks and all classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall. *We've missed you and can't wait to see you again!*





# 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!*

**Confirmation will start on September 26<sup>th</sup>. If your child is currently enrolled in our Sunday School program look for a letter from Pastor Bruce for details soon. If your child is not currently enrolled or if you are unsure, please call the church office to provide your child's name and family contact information.**

**Keep those plastic bags coming! *Please take time to look at the lists of what we can accept and what we can NOT accept.*** Thanks for your attention to this. Questions?? See Jerry Trexler.

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

Help is needed on the day of the sale to set up (starting at 6 am), man tables, and clean up (beginning at 1:30 pm). We are also looking for baked goods donations. If you are willing to help please contact Brenda Hovis.

## Let's Remember and Encourage our College Students

Let's keep in contact with our college students and let them know that they are not forgotten and we are praying for their success. We can do this by sending cards, care packages, or send a note with a gift card to any place to eat. Anytime is a good time whether it be right after their arrival at college or during finals. We are looking for people to sponsor college students. Please contact Sandi DiSanto at [sandidisanto@gmail.com](mailto:sandidisanto@gmail.com) or 610-360-9637 if you are interested in taking part in this mission.

### CALENDAR

TODAY	-10:15 Worship/Joyful Noise
MONDAY	-Vacation Day for Sandy
TUESDAY	-1-3 Yard Sale sorting/pricing -6:30 – 8 Faith in Stitches
THURSDAY	-6-8 Yard Sale sorting/pricing
FRIDAY	-Office Closed
SUNDAY	-9:00 Sunday School Begins -10:15 Back to Church Sunday

### *Those Who Will Serve:*

	<b>September 12</b>	<b>September 19</b>
Head Usher:	Caroline Frantz	Caroline Frantz
Ushers:	Michele Keeler Cindy Talaber	George Rau Bob Shelly
Lay Reader:	Cindy Talaber	Jerry Trexler
Fin. Sec.	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Lawn	Bruce Torrence Wes Koser	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### **Contact Information:**

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