

# **FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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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**  
**TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

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

*Sovereign of Creation, all that we have comes from you. Physically distanced, we gather in your presence, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet. Hear the praise we offer, work in us and through us. You alone are holy, you alone are the Most High, you alone are worthy of our praise. Glory to you O God, and to the Lamb, our Shepherd, and to the Spirit that unites us all, today and ever more. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CENTERING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP -**

\* **OPENING HYMN: *FOR ALL THE SAINTS*** **299**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: Who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: In life and in death

**People: We belong to God.**

Pastor: Baptized into Christ's death

**People: We live unto Him.**

Pastor: Come, let us Worship God!

**REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

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

**Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. 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: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**People: Let us give thanks unto the Lord; God's steadfast love endures forever.**

**\* 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 – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE**

**LEARNING ABOUT GOD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

*Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and*

*freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## **THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

Old Testament: Ruth 3:1- 5; 4:13 – 17

New Testament: Mark 12:38 – 44

## **THE CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON:** *Love is Proportional*

### **DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD’S WILL**

#### **\* RESPONSIVE READING FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY:**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, Bless the Lord.

**People: God’s dominion is forever.**

Pastor: As for us our days are grass;

**People: Like a flower of the field, we flourish and then we die.**

Pastor: But the steadfast love of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

**People: And God’s righteousness is to children’s children.**

Pastor: The grass withers and the flower fades;

**People: But the word of the Lord stands forever.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord.

**People: God’s dominion is forever.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION**

Pastor: O God, Heavenly Father: we thank you today for calling us your saints. In spite of our unholy lives, you look at us and see Jesus’ perfect life and death covering ours. Thank you for this grace, the grace we received when we were baptized. Lord in your mercy:

**Unison: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Thank you for every Christian who has helped us on our journey and encouraged us to keep believing when we felt like giving up. Thank you for all those who taught us the faith. Thank you for those who made the ultimate

sacrifice of their lives to ensure others could hear of your love in Christ. Lord in your mercy:

**Unison: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We remember the saints in heaven. Thank you for releasing them from the burden of sin and death in this life and for keeping your promise to them. We especially remember those from our community who have passed away in the past year, Jim, Tim, Sue, Shirley, Dorothy, and Virginia. Give comfort to all those who grieve over loved ones no longer with us on earth. Give them the hope only your word can offer us. Lord in your mercy:

**Unison: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for your church on earth, that it may remain faithful to the apostles' teaching and that it will strive for unity. We pray for all Christians, especially those under persecution, that they may imitate the martyrs in bold witness to the gospel.

We pray for those who are not yet part of your church and for those who have left it, asking your spirit to convince them of your love for them in Jesus. And we pray for the enemies of the church, and those who curse your saints. Lord in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Bring peace to those nations in conflict and where there is political instability. Protect those who are poor and hungry and give them hope. Move those with plenty to share with those who have little. Help all people to love their neighbor as themselves. Lord in your mercy:

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of life, we give thanks for the love you have shown to the world through all your saints, and we celebrate our continuing communion with them whenever we worship.

We look forward to being part of the crowd around your throne in heaven on the last day. In the meantime, keep us looking to Jesus and help us to keep giving a clear witness to him, living the holy lives you have called us to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus holy name we pray.

*(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.**

## **THE NAMING OF THE SAINTS**

### **Introduction**

#### **A Litany for All Saints Sunday**

**Pastor:** All Saints Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate and remember those in our community who have gone before us.

**People:** **Their presence in our community has contributed and shaped our work, and life, character, and story.**

**Pastor:** We remember those whose faithful witness proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ in words loud and soft, in actions great and small.

**People:** **We gather before God and remember the saints who have told the stories of God's people, and witnessed to their faith in times gone by. We celebrate the lives of James**

**Tilley, Timothy Holschwander, Susan Walter, Shirley George, Dorothy Miller, and Virginia Haller. We remember their lives and celebrate the gifts that we received from you by sharing them with us.**

### **Dedication**

**Pastor:** It is good and appropriate that we should set apart and dedicate common items purchased for sacred purposes in the work and ministry of Christ's church.

**People:** **We come to this moment in our worship when we pause to meditate upon the thoughtfulness of others, whose love for their loved ones who have passed from this life to the next will be kept fresh by a living memorial to them.**

**Pastor:** Sisters and brothers in Christ, today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to dedicate two altar paraments, a pulpit parament, a prayer and medication garden, and Christmas wreaths for our church.

In order that we might see images that will speak and give history to the meaning and history of our faith as we gather around Christ's table finding fellowship and community and worship together through the season of Epiphany,

**People:** **We dedicate two new altar paraments, one for when we celebrate the Lord's supper, and one for the season of Epiphany, to you O God in memory of Arlene Beck.**

**Pastor:** May the colors and images of these paraments be an ever-present memory of the ancient stories and lessons of our faith. May we allow them to keep our faith alive just as it was in Arlene's days on earth and now as she enjoys her reward in God's heavenly realm.

**People:** **We also dedicate an Epiphany altar parament in memory of Miriam Beck.**

**Pastor:** We are so grateful for the years that you shared her with us, of God. We remember her humor, her dedication to family, her love to cooking and her gift of hospitality. May the

images of Bethlehem and the star that guided the Magi to the stable that housed the Christ Child be a reminder of her dedication to the life of Christ, His earthly ministry, and heavenly home which she now enjoys.

**People: We also dedicate a new garden in which we may sit, meditate, pray, contemplate, and feel your presence with us.**

Pastor: COVID-19 separated us in many ways. For a time it separated us from worshiping together as a community. As warmer weather returned, we were able to gather outside but without a place to even sit. With this new garden with seating, dedicated in memory of James Tilley, we now have the luxury of having space in which we can experience fellowship, community, and God's presence with us always.

**People: As we are blessed by this space, we will remember Jim and what he brought into our church community.**

Pastor: Christmas was a special holiday for Sue Walter, as it is for many of us, and so it is very appropriate that new Christmas wreaths for our building have been purchased in Sue's memory. Season after season we will be reminded of the many ways Sue faithfully loved and served her church, and her appreciation for the traditions of Christmas which spoke to her so deeply

**Pastor: To the glory of God the Creator, who calls us through unending grace and mercy; to the honor of God's Son who loved us and gave himself for us; and to the praise of the Holy Spirit who comforts, strengthens, and guides us, we dedicate these wreaths to your glory that they might touch our hearts and capture our imagination. Might it be a source of inspiration as we celebrate your arrival in our hearts every Christmas.**

### **A Moment for Private Reflection**

**Unison: Spirit of God, the life we lead and the stories we weave do**

not always have a tidy beginning, middle, and end. Some poems do not rhyme, some stories have twists and surprises. Yet, we give thanks to you for the many stories we were able to share with one another, for the joys we knew and dreams we shared with our friends before us. Help us to remember and honor their lives. May the examples of their lives teach us about the meaning and truth to life's ultimate questions. Trusting in your promise to be with us in life, in death, and in life beyond death, we offer all our prayers in the holy name of Jesus. Amen.

### GIVE THANKS TO GOD

#### **THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING**

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC: *UNSHAMED LOVE***

*Darin Jellison*

*Chorus:*

*Of a childlike faith, of my honest praise,*

*Of my unashamed love.*

*Of a holy life, of my sacrifice,*

*Of my unashamed love*

#### **\* 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 THANKSGIVING:**

**Living God, we are your people, we carry your presence. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission in the world.**

**Multiply our effort to meet every need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God now and forever. Amen.**

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

- \* **CLOSING HYMN: *I SING A SONG OF THE SAINTS OF GOD* 295**
- \* **BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**
- \* **MEDITATION**
- \* **POSTLUDE**

\*Would those who are able please stand.

**Welcome to Faith Church this All Saints Sunday.** 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 his musical offerings.

**Music at Faith Church  
THIS AFTERNOON at 3:00 pm**

**AIZURI STRING QUARTET**

A free Community Concert – No Tickets Required

Limited Seating – First Come First Served

Masks Required with Social Distancing

Presented by Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem

Info: [www.cmsob.org](http://www.cmsob.org) or Dennis Duda @ 215.840.4734

**The Children and Communion Program will be offered to children in grades 2 or above.** Parents and their children need to attend classes (via Zoom) from 6-7 pm on **November 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**. Your children will receive their first communion on November 28<sup>th</sup> - the first Sunday in Advent. If you are interested please contact Pastor Bruce at [pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org](mailto:pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org) or speak to him following the service.

We will hold our **Congregational Meeting** on **Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>** to approve the budget for 2022 and elect a member/steward for the Memorial and Enduring Gifts Committee. We will be voting by ballots which will be available in church the day of the meeting. The ballots and the budget preview are available on our weekly email. If you would like these mailed to you please call the church office before November 15<sup>th</sup>.



Faith Church will hold an on-line  
***Holiday Mini-Talent Auction***  
**November 14-December 5**

***Can you offer an item or talent to auction off?***

Please email the details (description and picture if possible) to Wes Koser at [koser1@yahoo.com](mailto:koser1@yahoo.com) or fill out the form included in the bulletin and drop it in the offering plate or church office.

Items up for bid could include delectable homemade foods, entire meals delivered to your door, household services like HVAC maintenance, gardening, sports certificates, travel bargains, computer technical assistance, specialty services, hand crafted items and more all donated by church members. ***Please have your offering details to Wes asap.***

**On October 24th, Faith Church hosted the first ever Bike and Hike to benefit the Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation.** It was a beautiful show of support for our twelve-year-old daughter, Rylie, who suffers from this disorder. A grand total of \$1, 650 was sent to fund research of this very rare syndrome. We want to send out a special thank you to Caroline Frantz and everyone who helped her plan such an organized and fun event. We'd also like to thank all of the members of Faith church who showed up on that beautiful Fall day to ride bikes or walk along with us on the Saucon Rail Trail and all of those who donated to the cause. At the end of the event, Caroline told us that "Faith Church loves Rylie and the Maginn Family". We want you to know that we felt your love on that day especially.

With gratitude,

*Jack, Heather, Rylie, Lily, and Kellan Maginn*

## CALENDAR

TODAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship -1:00 Fall Bingo
MONDAY	-Sandy works from home
TUESDAY	-6:30 – 8 Faith in Stitches
THURSDAY	-Veteran’s Day – Office Closed
FRIDAY	-Office Closed
SATURDAY	-10 am – 12 pm Hall Rental
SUNDAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship

### *Those Who Will Serve:*

	<b>November 7</b>	<b>November 14</b>
Head Usher:	Brenda Hovis	Brenda Hovis
Ushers:	Jerry & Elaine Trexler	Caroline Frantz Joan Hassler
Lay Reader:	Jerry Trexler	Ron Demkee
Fin. Sec.	Tony DiSanto	Bruce Torrence

### **Contact Information:**

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