

**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
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 15, 2022**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

We praise you, O God, for the gift of creation and the surprise of re-creation. Open our eyes to see new things. Open our minds to think fresh thoughts. Open our communities to welcome new partners. Open our spirits to follow your Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: *GOD OF GRACE, AND GOD OF GLORY***

436

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Imagine...

Choir Side: ... a place where all are welcome

Pulpit Side: ... and everyone hears the sound of their name.

Pastor: Imagine...

Choir Side: ... everyone having enough food and water

Pulpit Side: ... and a home free of hatred and fear.

Pastor: Imagine...

Choir Side: ... a place where creativity is valued

Pulpit Side: ... and the spirit is nurtured in love.

Pastor: Imagine ... just imagine ... this is that place.

Unison: **With one voice, one joy, one faith, one love
we worship God together.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

The house of God is our home: a place of comfort, familiarity, of easily held opinions, common causes, and shared values. A community that affirms our beliefs, traditions, understandings of the world.

God came to live among us –broke through every barrier of sense, wisdom, and experience to forge a new people, to build a new community without borders or boundaries.

Into our quiet complacency or our noisy divisions God suggests another way, breaking down our barriers, crashing through our comfort zones to the heart of what it is to live in God’s way. So, we pause and ponder the inclusion we feel, the exclusion we create, the easy friendships, the like-minded gatherings, the many left outside.

Yet what might seem unclean is precious to God. What looks ungodly is counted worthy. Sinners made saints, outsiders pulled in to be warmed at the hearth – the walls of the community pushed out to make room.

Forgive us then the narrow-mindedness that excludes. Forgive us the tendency to disapprove and judge, and open hearts and arms to the life you promised. Open our doors to make room for those you would welcome.

*** 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 will show forth your praise

*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.*

* **WE SHARE PEACE**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Donna Schoenberger

Psalter: Psalm 148

New Testament: Acts 11:1 – 18

Gospel: John 13:31 – 35

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN: *JESUS CALLS US O'RE THE TUMULT*

172

SERMON: *Turf Wars*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

Yes. It can happen.

Yes. It can take place.

Yes. God can do it.

After all, the angel said "Do not be afraid."

After all, the tomb was found empty.

After all, the Spirit "will pray for you."

After all, God wants peace and reconciliation

After all, God's name is "justice."

After all, God is "liberation."

Yes. It can happen.

Yes. It can take place.

Yes. God can do it.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Let there be visions again – signs and wonders of how life might be, a brief glimpse into the mind of God that sees what our eyes fail to see; the particular, strange beauty of folk like you and so different from me.

Let there be dreams again – voices and pictures of a world renewed, heaven and Earth blessed and beautified, fit for God, made ready to be something, something that lacks violence, hatred, division where folk like you and folk like me find a way to be together.

Let there be miracles again – healings and sharings of all that we are or might become, a weaving of the world's many strands, differences of race, color, creed telling creation's story in all its splendor that all folk whoever they are witness to the wisdom and wit of God.

Let there be peace again – brothers and sisters bonded across the seas, weapons left to rust, words of hate left in the past the will of God for all humanity, lived, not whispered, spread abroad to all folk for the greening of Earth.

Let there be a new heaven and a new Earth – the former things passed away, no more mourning or crying or pain for God makes all things new.

(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

CHOIR ANTHEM: *O WORSHIP THE LORD*

* 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:

Giver of Life, we share what we have received. We dedicate these gifts as we rededicate ourselves to preparing the way for a new heaven and renewed Earth, where all people and all creation know the full measure of your peace. May these gifts reflect a praise and gratitude for the work of your spirit, drawing us ever deeper into the richness of relationship upon which we all depend. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* CLOSING HYMN: *O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED* 493

* 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM: O WORSHIP THE LORD – L. Larson

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. Worship the Lord in spirit and truth. Lift your voice in praise; come and kneel in devotion. Worship the Lord; come and worship the Lord. Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. Worship the Lord in spirit and truth. Lift your voice in praise; come and kneel in devotion. Worship the Lord; come and worship the Lord. O worship the King, all glorious above; O gratefully sing His power and His love; our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. Worship the Lord in spirit and truth. Lift your voice in praise; come and kneel in devotion. Worship the Lord: come and worship the Lord. Worship the Lord; come and worship the Lord.

Welcome to Faith Church this Fifth Sunday in Easter. We are glad to have you worshiping with us. May our time together serve as an inspiration for the days and weeks ahead. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads provided for you in the pews.

The altar flowers are presented in honor of all of you who have joined us this morning be it in person or at home.

Our Special Offering for May is Strengthen the Church. Special envelopes are available in the narthex.

Please be sure to join us next Sunday (May 22) as the Mission Team leads worship. We will celebrate the Haitian families we have sponsored in the past and those who we are sponsoring now, along with updates on other Faith Missions.

CALENDAR

Regular Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm; Closed on Fridays

TODAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship
MONDAY	-Sandy works from home
TUESDAY	-Fellowship Hall closed for Election Day
FRIDAY	-Office Closed -Pastor's Day Off
SUNDAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship/Mission Sunday

Those Who Will Serve:

	May 15	May 22
Head Usher:	Mike Ford	Mike Ford
Usher(s):	Doris Horwath	Ruth Smith
Lay Reader:	Donna Schoenberger	Mission
Flowers:	A Friend	Roberts
Fin. Sec.:	Jerry Trexler	Jerry Trexler
Lawn Crew:	Volunteers Needed	Steve Sosnowsky

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

Sandy works from home on Mondays: 610-967-6232

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