

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH
OF
CHRIST**



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Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
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**Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Lead Pastor
Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist-Director of Music**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 2, 2022**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Holy and gracious God, let us be open to your presence among your people, those gathered for worship, and all of your people, throughout your creation. May we receive you fully and respond to you wholeheartedly. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

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

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers.

People: We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service.

Pastor: Where in the world shall we serve our God?

People: At home and school and business place – in this community and throughout every land.

Pastor: How in the world shall we serve our God?

People: By working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred.

Pastor: Why in the world shall we serve our God?

People: Because the Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Lord, on this world communion Sunday, help us examine our hearts so that we may pay proper respect to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Thank you for offering reconciliation to all of humankind, the forgiveness of sins through Christ, our high priest.

Almighty and ever-present God, we confess our sins to you. We are truly sorry for our wrongdoings and shortcomings, for sins of commission and sins of omission. Forgive us, we pray, in Christ's name.

Empower us to serve you fully, to share the resources we have with those who have less, to weep with those who weep, and to laugh with those who laugh. Help us to be good stewards over the earth you have placed in our care; help us to unite in love and concern for one another, not just in our local community, but with brothers and sisters in all the world.

As we draw near to your holy table we thank you, Lord, for providing the Bread of Life for us. As we partake, impart on us your grace and mercy, unite us with Christ, our Lord, and with one another. May your kingdom be established in all the earth. 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.

*** WE SHARE PEACE: I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER 478**

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

MISSION MOMENT: *Neighbors in Need*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Lamentations 1:1 – 6

Epistle: II Timothy 1:1 – 14

Luke 17:5 – 10

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *A Legacy that Must Continue*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** *Adapted from the Behar Confession*

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human
family. And we believe that this unity of the people of God
must be manifest and active,
in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another,
that we are share one baptism together,**

that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Holy One, we lift up our siblings around the world. We have heard their cries for justice and peace as they face the challenges of human rights abuses, damage to creation, natural disasters, and COVID-19.

We know that there are many obstacles to addressing these challenges. But we also know that you are greater and that your love for your people is deeper than we could ever imagine. Cover your people with your love, O God. May we feel your presence walking with us each day. Guide us, O God, that we may also walk beside our local and global neighbors in prayer, partnership, and presence. May we listen to you and our partners as we consider what we might do to share in ministry with all people.

Weave us together in hope, O God, that we may recognize that we are all part of your great tapestry. All of our threads are needed and necessary for your beautiful design. Strengthen us and nourish us for the journey, as you strengthen and nourish those around the globe.

(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

We approach the table today but we don't approach it alone. We approach it on this World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world, in congregations large and small, speaking every language and one language. And so part of our approach this morning is to remember in our offering our connection to the work of the church in every corner of God's creation. Truly, God has blessed us with the rich, varied, and abundant gifts of creation. From God's abundance, let us also give abundantly.

CHOIR ANTHEM: AND WE REMEMBER

* 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:

Gracious God, you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve. And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation, and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace, now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Pastor: This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south. This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a Protestant or a United Church of Christ table. It's not an American table. It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come, let us share this meal together.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Pastor: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. Even when we were dust, when our story begins in dust, you were there, your word was there, your breath into the lifeless void. And upon your word all creation sprang into life. When we were in the wilderness, terrified, timid, you were there, your word was there, with manna just enough for today, with water even from the driest rock, with the abundant grace upon which our story always rests. And when we fell short, slaves to power and greed, you were there, your word was there, on the lips of prophets, and in the hearts of servants, in stories of revolution and revelation and liberation, calling us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with

all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Unison: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Indeed blessed are you, O Christ, our Lord, for risking yourself among us, vulnerable and rejected; for teaching among us, teaching the radical hope of God; teaching grace to a world bent on vengeance, teaching love to a world bent on destruction, teaching peace to a world bent on tearing itself apart.

You were there, your word was there, even to the point of death itself. Even faced with terror and hatred and the brokenness of the world, you rose again, to new life, to new creation, to resurrection, that we might know something other than the dust, that we might expect something other than the end, that we might work for something other than ourselves.

And so you speak to us again, with these abundant gifts of bread and wine, with which we joyfully celebrate your dying and rising, as we await the table of the Kingdom yet to come, and as we dedicate ourselves again to you, thankful, and transformed, as living and holy sacrifices, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Unison: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the

bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may retell our common stories together and reshape our common bonds together, and remember our common grace together, in the communion of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, the one in whose life and death you have torn down our divisions. And so may we be one with all who share this feast, on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table. May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice. May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your righteousness. May we be united with every corner of your story, united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose, united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. Send us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love, that we may be witnesses in all creation to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust. Keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful, until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom, to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm, with you and with your Word, through Christ and in Christ, the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us.

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup, Partaking of the Meal

Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saint's witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we

each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * **CLOSING HYMN: *GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS*** 423
- * **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: *AND WE REMEMBER* – D. E. Wagner

In this holy place the Lord is with us. By the Word made flesh we die no more. Born to vanquish sin, heaven's gate to win, as new life begins, And we remember.

In the upper room they met together. (Alleluia) Bread was broken, and the cup was passed. Symbols of a love, sent from God above, to partake thereof, And we remember.

In our hearts we know His pain and passion. Still our hands reach out for mercy's sake. Christ the sacrifice, opened paradise, bought at such a price, And we remember.

He who gave his life, gave us the promise. Never to forsake or turn away. Death upon the tree, won the victory, Christ has made us free, And we remember. *WE* remember.

Welcome to Faith Church this Seventeenth 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. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads provided for you in the pews.

Parish Administrator Sandy David will be on vacation this week.

Choral Rehearsal will follow worship this morning for our Faith Singers and Friends. Members of Faith UCC, Chestnut Hill UCC, and St John's UCC will come together in preparation of music for the visit of Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bate on Sunday, October 16th. Mark your calendar!

October 9th is Children's Sabbath Sunday. Pastor Rose Shepley, chaplain of Bethany Children's Home will share the message with us. This is a Joyful Noise Sunday so please bring along your loose change! The Mission Team will share information on those who benefit from this special offering.

CALENDAR

Parish Administrator Sandy David is on vacation this week.

TODAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship -World Communion -11:30 Choral Rehearsal
TUESDAY	-7:00 Worship Committee (Zoom)
FRIDAY	-Office Closed
SUNDAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship -Children's Sabbath Sunday -Joyful Noise

Special Thanks To Those Who Will Serve:

	October 2	October 9
Head Usher:	Mike Ford	Mike Ford
Usher(s):	Bob & Patti Shelly	George Rau
Lay Reader:	Joan Hassler	Cindy Talaber
Fin. Sec.:	Bob Shelly	Bob Shelly

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm;

Closed Fridays

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