

# **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  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 22, 2023**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

**Darin Jellison**

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

*You who gives all, holding back nothing for the sake of fuller, wider expressions of love, move us this day to take similar risks. Grace us with renewed confidence, and inspire us with an inviting, touchable vision for life, work, and service in your name.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP**

\* **OPENING HYMN: GLORIOUS THINGS OF YOU ARE SPOKEN 307**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Pastor:** Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

**People:** We are each a child of God. No matter who we are, or where we are on life's journey, we are blessed.

**Pastor:** Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

**People:** We come to worship the God who feeds us, who fills us, and who blesses us.

**Pastor:** Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

**People:** Let us rejoice in the love of God, and worship our God together in prayer, song, and praise.

**REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

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

**Pastor:** O Holy One, who wondrously calls us into being, calling us also into ways and being for life, we admit before you and to those around us, that at times it all

seems too hard; when we see little fruit for our labors, receive ingratitude for honest endeavors, or feel self-belittlement after daring to express a still latent or developing gift.

**People: Forgive us, not just for a lack of belief in you but a lack of belief in who we are.**

Pastor: Forgive us for negative conclusions and false humilities that would have us hide away and not hear the calls for creative love and justice that you place ever before us.

**People: Self-giving God, restore in us the undying courage of Christ and the ennobling presence of the Holy Spirit.**

**\* 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**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1 – 4

New Testament: Matthew 4:12 - 23

### **THE CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**HYMN: *JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT***

**172**

**SERMON: *Risky Business***

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

### **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**We sing of God the Spirit,**

**who from the beginning has swept over the face of  
creation,**

**animating all energy and matter  
and moving in the human heart.**

**We sing of God the Spirit,**

**faithful and untameable,**

**who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.**

**The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy**

**not only in what is familiar,**

**but also in that which seems foreign.**

**We sing of the Spirit,**

**who speaks our prayers of deepest longing**

**and enfolds our concerns and confessions,**

**transforming us and the world.**

**We offer worship**

**as an outpouring of gratitude and awe**

**and a practice of opening ourselves**

**to God's still, small voice of comfort,**

**to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.**

**Through word, music, art, and sacrament,**

**in community and in solitude,**

**God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.**

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

Pastor: Holy God, our source of light and life, we ask that you travel with us as we hold the questions. The questions that have been refined to name what we seek, what we need, and where we should go. Sometimes we wonder, are we worthy to be called by you? Yet. Sometimes, the answers shake us. Sometimes, we are too afraid to admit truths about ourselves. Old wounds remain and sometimes hurt. We feel broken. We are uncertain. Fear haunts us. Lessons learned need to be learned again and again. Help us. Help us to know we are not alone. Help us feel our way through the shadows, finding the gentle glow of the light. Help us to see the sacred glow of another's light. Help us know that sometimes the questions are the answers and that by asking we are led to the home within ourselves where you dwell. Help us in our belief and unbelief, God, that you have called us, that you claim us, and that we are here to serve. Be our guide. Be our soft space and sturdy foundation. Be our healing balm. Be our ever-true guiding presence, leading us to each other, showing us our companions along the journey. You create such beautiful spaces for healing, rest, and protection. We give thanks, and we rest in the hope that you will be with us now and in the years to come.

*(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  
OFFERTORY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: *SLEEP, LITTLE BABY***

**\* 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:**

**All that we are, O God, and all we are called to be, we bring to this special moment of offering and hope. may our gifts be used imaginatively for the well-being of all. Amen.**

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

**\* CLOSING HYMN: *LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING* 43**

**\* 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: *SLEEP, LITTLE BABY - J.M. Martin***

Sleep, little baby, all through the silent night: nothing awake thee, don't you cry. Peace be your blanket, love be your dream; Lullabye Jesus, sleep, baby, sleep. Sleep little Jesus, safe in your mother's arms; Her love will keep you from all harm. One day the wind will blow, but for now angels sing; Lullabye Jesus, sleep, baby, sleep. Child of the promise, born to redeem; The truth that you bring us is more than just a dream. Sleep, little baby, Savior sent down from high; Jesus, we need thee in our lives. God sends us his own heart to share and to keep; While we adore thee, sleep, baby, sleep.

**Welcome to Faith Church this Third Sunday after Epiphany.**

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.

**Special thanks to Darin Jellison** for sharing special music with us.

**The Mission Team challenges you to support the Souper Bowl of Caring by bringing several of these food items **EVERY** Sunday beginning today through February 26:**

**CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP (Condensed)**

**PEANUT BUTTER**

**JELLY**

We challenge the congregation to donate at least **100 cans** of Chicken Noodle Soup, **50 jars** of Peanut Butter, and **50 jars** of Jelly. Donations can be left in the Narthex on the table marked **Souper Bowl of Caring**. You'll find more details in the January & upcoming February Focus on Faith.

The **Memorial & Enduring Gifts** Committee will meet this Tuesday at 7 pm and **Consistory** will meet on Thursday at 7 pm.

## CALENDAR

TODAY	-9:00 Sunday School -10:15 Worship
MONDAY	-Sandy works away from the office
TUESDAY	-7 pm Memorial & Enduring Gifts
WEDNESDAY	-1 pm Pastor Meeting
THURSDAY	-7 pm Consistory Meeting
FRIDAY	-Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off
SUNDAY	-9 am Sunday School -10:15 Worship

### *Special Thanks To Those Who Will Serve:*

	<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>January 29<sup>th</sup></b>
Head Usher:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Usher(s):	Deb Herstine Heather Koser	Donna Schoenberger Catherine Stevenson
Lay Reader:	Darin Jellison	Cindy Talaber
Fin. Sec.	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis

### **Faith United Church of Christ**

5992 Route 378, Center Valley, PA 18034

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

**Sandy on Mondays:** 610-282-3939 – messages are checked hourly so please leave a message and Sandy will call you back. If you are in urgent need of something, call 610-967-6232.

**Pastor:** 484-893-0698; pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org

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