

FAITH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Living Water | Rev. Lauren Pittman Wright | Sanctified Art

**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 LENT
MARCH 12, 2023**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *COME, YE BLESSED* – Gaul Carole Burkhardt

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

In the driest desert, O God, you provided a rock that held a fountain for those who thirst. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. In a place of quarrelling, you provide an answer that holds life for those who hope. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. In a place of wonder, you provided living water, for those who met there. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: *WE ALL COME THIRSTY***

Next page

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: We gather together;

People: the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.

Pastor: We gather together;

People: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in
hopes of finding peace.

Pastor: We gather together;

People: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare, in
hopes of finding justice.

Pastor: So, come to the well, come to the table. Come, let us
worship God. Amen.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

WE ALL COME THIRSTY

ST. COLUMBA ("The King of Love My Shepherd Is")

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Irish Melody

We Through We all dif care - come f'ren for thir ces God's - sty our com - to hands mun - the can i - well reach ty to to Our

seek care mu - the and tual li - hold aid - ving each shared wa oth free - ter er ly With There To wounds are all and no we

pasts tran give - we'd gers as ra for we - ther they re - hide are ceive But Our With let sib - grace - tings, and our sis - lov - ters, ing

sof bro deep - - - ten thers ly

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

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well. So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors? How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change? How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work? Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, 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: Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine: we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God. This is the good news of the gospel:

People: God's grace is deeper than any well. We are seen, loved, and forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.

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:

Donna Schudel-Barone

Old Testament: Exodus 17:1 – 7

New Testament: John 4:5 – 42

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN: *JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL*

546

SERMON: *Your Prayer is Too Small*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**We believe that a glass of water given to us by a stranger can
taste like justice.**

**We believe that honest conversation has the power to change
us.**

**We believe that all God's children have a voice and something
to say.**

**We believe that Jesus loves the outcast, the ignored, the
shamed, and the abandoned.**

We believe in asking questions.

We believe in curiosity.

We believe in giving people a drink.

May we be brave enough to give people a drink. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

**Pastor: Gracious God, we know that we have something to say
and that there is good news to share. We know that you
have promised peace everlasting, and we can lift our**

voices to proclaim such possibility. But we are also full of doubt that our voices are strong enough or loud enough. We quarrel with God, like Moses, that no one will listen. There must be someone else that will speak. There isn't always an Aaron to be your voice. Sometimes, we know we must use our voices. It has to be us that speak up. We must find the courage, like the woman at the well, to break through our insecurities and the expected boundaries to give voice to what matters most. Gracious God, we will never feel quite ready. We will always stumble over the words and question how we use words to bring about the change you imagine. As we find the courage to speak, we turn to you, Gracious God, to listen for what most needs to be said. We are listening.

(silence)

God of shared desire, we entrust these prayers and our voices to you in the hope of love, compassion, peace, justice, and faith.

(The names of specific people, places, and circumstances may be lifted up at this time)

Pastor: In the faith, hope, and love of Christ, we pray,

Unison: Eternal Spirit,

Earth – maker, Pain – bearer, Life – giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
World!**

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

Sustains our hope and come on earth.

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptations and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For your reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen**

- The Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

OFFERTORY: *O REST IN THE LORD* - Mendelssohn

*** 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:**

As One closer than our breathing, and as One knowing of our needs before we ask, bless the gifts we bring today, O God. Through us, use them in the love and service of others.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: *THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION* 386**

*** 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: *THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION* – arr. M. Hayes**

**Would those who are able please stand.*

Welcome to Faith Church this Third Sunday in Lent. 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 this morning are presented by the Talboos in memory of our niece, Colleen Morgan.

Special thanks to Eileen Wescoe, pianist, and Carole Burkhardt, soprano soloist, for sharing their musical talents with us this morning.

Pastor Bruce will be away tomorrow through Wednesday at a Continuing Education Workshop. If you find yourself in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Teresa Martin at 717-654-4044.

Parish Administrator Sandy David will be on vacation this week.

The Worship Committee is taking orders for Easter Flowers to beautify the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Order forms are available in the Narthex. **TODAY is the last day to order!**

Pastor Bruce will hold a New Member Orientation on Sunday, March 26th at 3 pm in the Memorial Room. Anyone interested in joining Faith is welcome. We will receive the new members during worship on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

March is ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MONTH! One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church

of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Please prayerfully consider how you help. Special Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex.

Interested in sponsoring Altar Flowers? We have 2 Sundays open in April – April 16th & 30th. If interested please call the church office or email faithchurchcv@gmail.com.

Our Lenten theme this year is SEEKING: honest questions for deeper faith. Printed materials for the program are available in the Narthex. For those who prefer reading the materials online, links to the **Daily Devotional Cards** and the **Lenten Devotional Booklet** are included in the weekly email.

If you are not receiving our weekly email and would like to, please email Sandy at faithchurchcv@gmail.com and she will sign you up.

A LOOK AHEAD TO EASTER WEEK....

**Maundy Thursday, April 6
7:30 Service**

**Good Friday Vigil, April 7
6 pm – 12 am**

**Easter Sunday, April 9
Outdoor Service - 8 am (*weather permitting*)
Traditional Service – 10:15 am
Communion will be served at both services.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Office Hours are Monday – Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm
CLOSED Fridays**

- TODAY** -9:00 Sunday School
 -10:15 Worship
 -1 – 3 pm Hall Rental/Encore Studio
- MONDAY** -Office Closed
 -Sandy on Vacation
 -Pastor Bruce @ Continuing Ed Workshop
- TUESDAY** -Office Closed
 -Sandy on Vacation
 -Pastor Bruce @ Continuing Ed Workshop
- WEDNESDAY** -Office Closed
 -Sandy on Vacation
 -Pastor Bruce @ Continuing Ed Workshop
- THURSDAY** -Sandy on Vacation
- FRIDAY** -Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off
- SATURDAY** -1-6 Hall Rental/Hawk
- SUNDAY** -9 am Sunday School
 -10:15 Worship

Special Thanks To Those Who Will Serve:

	March 12th	March 19th
Head Usher:	Kim Ritter	Kim Ritter
Usher(s):	Wes & Heather Koser	Tim & Sara Hovis
Lay Reader:	Donna Schudel Barone	Brenda Hovis
Fin. Sec.	Tony DiSanto	Tony DiSanto
Altar Flowers	Talboos	Iris Shelly

Faith United Church of Christ

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Sandy on Mondays: Please leave a message on Office phone;
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Director of Music: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net