



“All of
them
were filled
with the
Holy Spirit...”

Acts 2:4

Welcome to this very special service of worship! Today's service focuses upon the Rite of Confirmation.



A person is incorporated into the universal church, the body of Christ, through the sacrament of baptism. When an infant or very young child is baptized, one or more parents and/or sponsors make the baptismal promises. These adult Christians assume certain responsibilities for the Christian nurture of the baptized child. The entire congregation also assumes a role in this ministry of nurture as its members promise to provide a supportive Christian community in which a child may grow in awareness and understanding concerning the meaning of life in Christ.

As a child who was baptized in infancy approaches adolescence, the local church offers that person the opportunity to give public assent to the baptismal promises. Confirmation celebrates this occasion of affirmation of baptism in the life of the individual and of the local church.

Today's service will also include Communion. The invitation and the call to the supper emphasize that all people of faith are welcome at Christ's table. The invitation and call celebrates not only the memory of a meal in the past, but an actual meal with the risen Christ that is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet at which Christ will preside at the end of history.

The order of today's service is an adaptation of two services taken from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship; Brief Order for the Service of Word and Sacrament and The Order for Confirmation.

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
PENTECOST SUNDAY ~ RITE OF CONFIRMATION
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
MAY 28, 2023**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE.

Gracious God, you have blessed us and called us to be a new people by the power of your Spirit. Open our minds and our hearts that we may see and know your work and word among us today, by your love. Amen.

**TODAY IS PENTECOST
THE PENTECOST STORY**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE
ALMIGHTY**

Red 25

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: In the beginning, O God, there was only you, our ending and our beginning. The Breath of our Life, our Guide and Inspiration, a conflagration of unknowable power, the Fire that fills our soul consuming us, driving us and renewing us, calling us, commissioning us and empowering us, leading us ever onward to paths we could never imagine, ways we never sought, lives filled and lived in the joy of divine transcendence even in the face of evil: suffering, pain and death.

People: Come to us, Holy Spirit,

Pastor: in the quiet times of peace.

People: Come to us, Holy Spirit,

Pastor: in the anguished eternities of grief.

People: Come to us, Holy Spirit,

Pastor: in welling fountains of joy.

People: Come to us, Holy Spirit,

Pastor: in cold vistas of disbelief.

People: Come to us, Holy Spirit,

Pastor: in burning certainties of faith.

Unison: Come to us, Holy Spirit, come!

***AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

Pastor: Together let us say what we believe:

**Unison: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

**CONFIRMATION ADDRESS: *Stop Complaining, You Have
Enough - II Corinthians 12:6 – 10***

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

OFFERTORY

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM: *POWER OF THE CROSS*

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY**

*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.*

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTION

INVITATION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in
confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe
in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYERS OF THE CANDIDATES:

*O God, my God,
known to me in Jesus Christ,
I give myself to you as your own,
to love and serve you faithfully
all the days of my life. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Let us pray in silence.

(A time for personal and silent prayers)

Let us pray together.

Unison: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant your love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray together, saying; 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.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION:

Pastor: We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and inspire to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

Unison: Amen.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTICIPATION

WELCOME

Pastor: Let us, the members of Faith United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: **We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen savior.**

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Faith United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Pastor: Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him. Come to the Lord's Table, having confessed your sin. Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: We have not believed you or trusted in your power.

People: **Lord, help our unbelief.**

Pastor: We have stained our souls by our action and inaction.

People: **Cleanse us, Lord.**

Pastor: We are broken by disease, bruised by the sins of others, weakened and unable to repair ourselves.

People: **Heal us, Lord.**

Pastor: We ignore your call to center our lives in you, and so are deaf to the hopes and cries of the poor, the sick, the needy, and the earth.

People: Ground us, Lord!

Pastor: When we confess our sinful ways, God abundantly pardons. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Glory to God!

Pastor: By one Spirit we are all baptized into the one body.

People Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and build up our common life.

Pastor: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you!

People: And also with you.

THE GLORIA PATRI

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.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to you, Lord.

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

People: It is right to praise you, Lord.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is praised among all peoples. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with your people on earth and all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

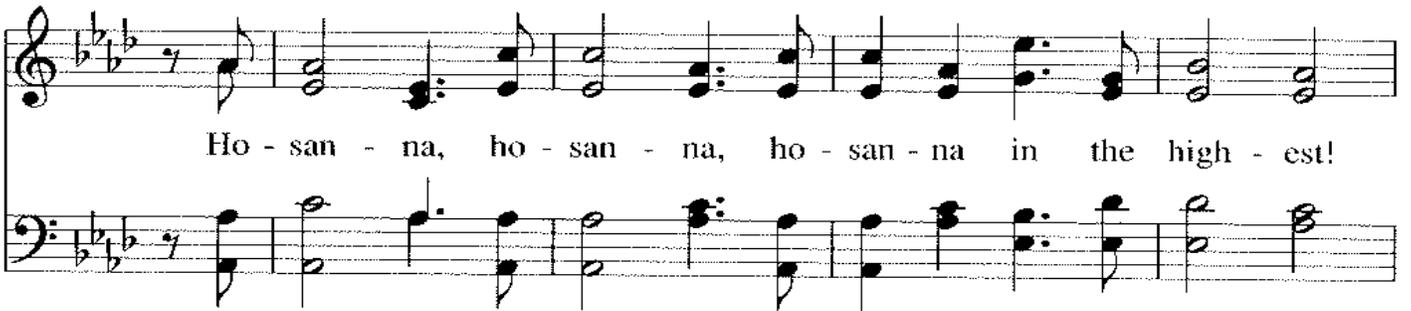
SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of the heaven-ly host;



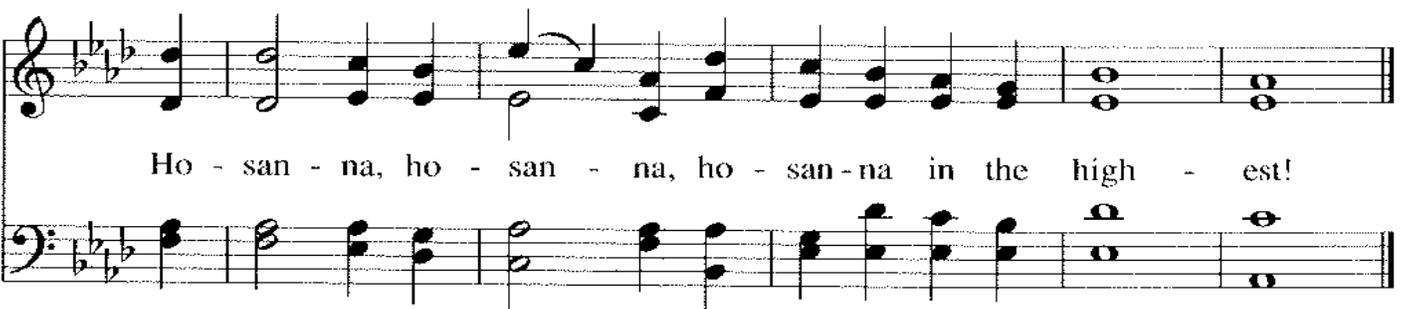
Heav-en and earth are full, are full of the maj-es-ty of your glo - ry,



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless-ed the one who comes in the name of our God,



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Pastor: You are holy, Almighty One! Blessed are you, Jesus Christ. In the power of the Spirit you created all things, blessed them, and called them good. You called to yourself a people to make your mercy and truth known in all the world. We betrayed your calling;

People: You were faithful.

Pastor: We wandered from the way;

People: You called us to return, and led us home.

Pastor: And still we turned from your ways, abused your creatures, and made ourselves slaves to sin and death. At the right time you came and dwelt among us, as one of us, bringing good news to the poor, healing the sick, raising the dead, sharing table with the unrighteous, and teaching the way that leads to life. By your incarnation, life, suffering, execution and resurrection You gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery and made a new covenant with us by water and the Spirit. On the night of your betrayal, Lord Jesus, you took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to your disciples and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." You did the same with the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant in my blood." Blessed Trinity, in remembrance of all you have done to save us, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim, the mystery of our faith:

Unison: Christ has come among us. Christ has died.

Christ has risen. Christ abides with us.

Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Spirit on us.

People: Pour out your Spirit on us.

Pastor: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts.

People: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts.

Pastor: Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ.

People: Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world.

Pastor: Abba, Father!

People: Let your kingdom come!

Pastor: Glory to you!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Come, Lord Jesus!

People: Be our daily bread.

Pastor: Glory to you!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Holy Spirit!

People: Send us to the world.

Pastor: Glory to you!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Blessed Trinity!

People: One God forever! Glory to you! Glory to you!

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Pastor: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ brings.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Pastor: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

This morning the Confirmands will be served Communion first while the Congregation sings the hymn, "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry." Afterwards, the Congregation will be served in their pews.

***HYMN: I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY 351**

Pastor: Eat this, for it is the body of Christ broken for you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our Savior Jesus Christ keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lord, you now have set your servants free to go in peace as you have promised. For these eyes of ours have seen the Savior whom you have prepared for all the world to see! Blessing and honor and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMISSIONING

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. May your light so shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN: SPIRIT, SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS 286**

***BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

***MEDITATION**

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto 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.

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS:

BRANDON BARONE

OWEN HOVIS

KATE JELLISON

*Please join us for a
Cake and Coffee Reception
to celebrate with our Confirmands as they
enter their new commitment to Christ's Church.*

CHOIR ANTHEM: *POWER OF THE CROSS*

- L. King quoting I. Watts and L. Mason

A dying man hung on a cross to set us free, He paid the cost. God sacrificed His holy Lamb, His precious Son, the great I AM! O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss O the power of the cross! There was a cross that bore Your name, scarred by sin and stained with shame. But, on that cross, if eyes could see, He took your place on Calvary. O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss. O the power of the cross. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride, my pride. O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss O the power of the cross, the cross! O the power, the mighty power of the cross!

Welcome to Faith Church this Pentecost Sunday. 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 Tim & Sara Hovis in celebration of Confirmation.

Special thanks to Kevin Long and Sam Creyer for creating our Pentecost display, to Qiyi Stoffey and Patience Stevenson for reading the Pentecost Story, and to Michele Keeler for organizing the Cake & Coffee Reception following worship.

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Memorial Day.

A Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday June 4th at the end of the service. There are 2 items on the agenda:

- 1. Change of By Laws to reconfigure membership of Consistory**
- 2. Election of Consistory Members**

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: *Instead of a Sunday School "Year End" picnic in June we will be holding a "Back to Church" picnic in September.*

May's Special UCC Offering is Strengthen the Church. Please consider how you might help. We will continue collecting for STC through next Sunday. You will find envelopes in your pews.

Companion/Driver Needed -

Part-time, temporary job serving as a companion and driver for an adult with special needs. We need assistance transporting him from his Day Program in Allentown to our home in Coopersburg 2

days/week, and 1-2 days/week for a few hours to provide family respite. Please call Donna Schudel-Barone at (215) 527-0319.

CALENDAR

- TODAY
 - Pentecost/Confirmation
 - 9:00 Last Day of Sunday School
 - 10:15 Worship
 - Cake & Coffee Reception to follow

- MONDAY
 - Memorial Day
 - Office Closed

- FRIDAY
 - Office Closed/Pastor's Day Off

- SUNDAY
 - 10:15 Worship
 - Congregational Meeting

Those Who Will Serve:

	May 28	June 4
Head Usher:	Jerry Trexler	Melissa Schafer
Ushers:	George Rau, Mike Ford, Rose Mirth, Diane Neidermeier	Mim Allison Joan Hassler
Lay Reader:	n/a	Donna Shudel-Barone
Fin. Sec.	Jerry Trexler	Bruce Torrence
Flowers:	Tim & Sara Hovis	Keelers



FAITH UCC
5992 Route 378
Center Valley, PA 18034

Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Pastor
Mr. Dennis Duda, Music Director and Organist

OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Thurs, 9 am - 4 pm Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com
Sandy works away from the office on Mondays but checks phone messages throughout the day.
It you find yourself in immediate need you can reach her at 610-967-6232 (Mondays Only)
Pastor: 610-866-7425; pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org
Dir of Music: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net