

# **FAITH**

## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Seventy-seven Times by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | Sanctifiedart.org

**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 IN LENT  
MARCH 17, 2024**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

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

*Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world. You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing! We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, "Hosanna in the highest!" Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP**

**\* OPENING HYMN: O SAVIOR, LET ME WALK WITH YOU**

**503**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Pastor:** Why are you here?

**People:** I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

**Pastor:** I see it! You're in the right place! This is God's house. The door is open to you.

**People:** Why are you here?

**Pastor:** I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

**People:** We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house. The door is open to you.

**Pastor:** Let us worship God.

**Unison:** *Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!*

## REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.” Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility 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: O Lord, open out lips.

People: And our mouths will show forth our 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 – *LET THERE BE PEACE OF EARTH*

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me*

*Let There Be Peace on earth the peace that was meant to be*

*With God our Creator, we are Family*

*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me let this be the moment now.*

*With ev'ry step I take let this be my solemn vow*

*To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally*

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me*

## **LEARNING ABOUT GOD**

**THE CHILDREN'S SERMON:**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

Old Testament: Psalm 119:9 – 16

Gospel: Matthew 18:15 – 22

**THE CHILDREN'S SERMON:**

**HYMN: *IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY***

**193**

**SERMON: *The Price of Repair***

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

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**We believe that questions are a building block of faith.**

**“How many times should I forgive?”**

**“Jesus, where are you going?”**

**“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”**

**We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.**

**“Where does it hurt?”**

**“What do you need?”**

**“How can I help?”**

**We believe that God is a teacher.**

**“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”**

**“Here I am.”**

**“Send me.”**

**We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,  
with all our heart,  
with all our mind,  
with all our strength.**

**We believe. Help our unbelief.  
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

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

**Pastor:** God, your faithful love surrounds us, and we give you thanks for the gift of life, and the gift of new life, and for the many ways you sustain and nurture us. We come before you this day, some of us tired and hungry, looking for your word to sustain us, your spirit to comfort us. Some of us come bruised and sore, looking for healing, longing for wholeness. Some of us come despairing, wondering what has happened and where the joy of life has gone. Some of us come with heavy hearts, praying for young people harmed by those who should protect, praying for those who look different and so are suspect, praying for a world on edge, tense with fear and hate and violence. We come, looking for good news in the midst of the world's bad news. We come, seeking forgiveness for our wrongs, seeking to know your presence when we feel so alone, seeking to know your Heart and will for a world with so much need. Let your grace rain down on us, O God. May we be surrounded by your love, your peace, your hope. Open our eyes and our hearts to see you in unexpected places, guide our hands to show your love. You are a God of surprises, a God of peace, a God of hope, a God of love. Fill us with your spirit, that we may widen the circle until all the world knows your grace.

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

**Pastor:** The day of the Lord is coming:

**People:** He abounds in steadfast love.

**Pastor:** Though we remember we are dust and to dust we shall

return, we remember that we are your precious dust. 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**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:**

**\* 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:**

**God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices  
of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these**

gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* CLOSING HYMN: *JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS* 197

\* BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

\* MEDITATION

*Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.*

\* POSTLUDE

\*Would those who are able please stand.

**CHOIR ANTHEM: WONDROUS LOVE - E. H. Thiman**

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, That caused the Lord of Bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down, sinking down, When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To God and to the Lamb Who is the great I Am, While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, While millions join the theme, I will sing, While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

**Welcome to Faith Church this Fifth 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 their niece, Colleen Morgan.**

**Spring Bingo and Basket Raffle will be held on Sunday, April 28th! Tickets go on sale Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.** Stay tuned for more details.

### **CALENDAR**

Office Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 9 am to 4 pm; Friday Closed

<b>Today</b>	<b>- 10:15 am Worship/Sunday School</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>- 7:00 pm Budget &amp; Finance Mtg</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>- 2:00 pm Faith in Stitches</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>- 7:00 pm Consistory Mtg</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>- Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>- Palm Sunday</b> <b>- 10:15 am Worship/Sunday School</b>

*Thanks to our volunteers:*

	<b>March 17</b>	<b>March 24</b>
Head Usher:	Kim Ritter	Kim Ritter
Ushers:	Rose Mirth Deb Herstine	Donna Schoenberger Kim Ritter
Lay Reader:	Rose Mirth	Patience Stevenson
Sunday School:	Sonya & Brett Dill	Kim Ritter Catherine Stevenson
Financial Sec:	Tony DiSanto	Tony DiSanto
Altar Flowers:	Talboos	A Friend

Office: 610-282-3939; [faithchurchcv@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurchcv@gmail.com)

Pastor: 610-248-5586; [Pastor@faithchurchucc.org](mailto:Pastor@faithchurchucc.org)

Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; [ddduda@verizon.net](mailto:ddduda@verizon.net)