

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
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME
MAY 12, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Ever present God, we are grateful that you meet us right where we are. Speaking our language and giving us the blessed assurance that you are with us. We look forward to the glory that awaits us, trusting that Christ will guide us to our heavenly home. In his name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: GOD, BLESS OUR HOMES**

429

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Let us praise God for sending Jesus Christ to offer his saving love to us all.

People: **We give God all our praises.**

Pastor: Let our hearts be filled with joyful celebration for the fulfillment of God's promises.

People: **We open our hearts to receive the joy of Christ.**

Pastor: Let us move forward with Jesus Christ as our guiding light.

People: **The light of Jesus Christ is shining in each of us.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship our Risen Christ, whose love and light guide us still.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Life-giving God, we find joy in your newness of life through

Jesus Christ. Help us to feel the joy of inhaling and exhaling the breath of life in every season. Transform us when we come together as your beloved and diverse creation. Guide us in our praise as we seek your saving love toward a world where there is peace and justice for all. 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.

*** WORDS OF GRACE**

*** 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

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Psalm 1

New Testament: John 17:6 – 19

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**This we have come to know,
this is what we have heard:
the Eternal is an everlasting God,
creator of heaven and earth,
who does not grow weary or faint;
whose wisdom is unsearchable,
giving energy to the meek
and strength to those who have none.**

**Even youths shall faint and grow weary,
young athletes shall fall exhausted;
but those who love the Lord Jesus
and patiently put their trust in God,
shall renew their strength;
they shall soar with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not weary,
they shall walk and not faint.**

A PRAYER LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Pastor: For our mothers, who have given us life and love,
may we show them reverence and love,

People: We pray to the Lord...

Pastor: For mothers who have lost a child through death,
that their faith may give them hope, and may their family
and friends support and console them,

People: We pray to the Lord...

Pastor: For women who, though without children of their own,
like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,

People: We pray to the Lord...

Pastor: For mothers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to their children and have not sustained their families,

People: We pray to the Lord...

Pastor: Loving Mother God, like an earthly mother who gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless every mother. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

People: Grant that we, their sons and daughters,

Pastor: may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

People: Grant this through Christ.

(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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Pastor: From the abundance of God's generosity, all are invited to offer a portion of our gifts.

People: We offer these offerings to Christ's church.

Pastor: Remembering the great love that Christ has for all people,

People: We give these gifts to further spread the love of Christ in the world.

Pastor: Blessing those who gave, and those unable to give.

People: We receive joy in this moment of giving.

Pastor: May these offerings help fulfill our hope to be Christ's love and light in the world.

OFFERTORY

CHOIR ANTHEM: WONDROUS LOVE

*** 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:**

Faithful God, we thank you for every gift. We delight in returning a portion of what we have been given back to Christ's church. Your generous love and care for all creation knows no bounds. Like Christ who offered himself, let these offerings symbolize the fulfillment of your love by bringing a healing balm of hope, peace, and justice to everyone, everywhere. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: O GOD, WHOSE STEADFAST LOVE 426**

*** 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: WONDROUS LOVE- *Eric 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 Seventh Sunday of Easter. 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 Tom & Brenda Hovis in honor of their mothers.

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. Communion will be served.

May is Strengthen the Church month. Offering envelopes can be found in your pews.

Faith Church is in charge of collecting 100 bottles of Laundry Detergent for Betty Lou's Pantry this month. Thanks in advance for your support!

A Look Ahead...*(see the weekly email for details)*

June 2nd – Youth Bowling Party 12:30 - 2:30

June 2nd – Native Plants in My Garden 6 – 7:30 pm

CALENDAR

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

- Today** - **Happy Mother’s Day**
- **10:15 am Worship / Sunday School**
- **Joyful Noise Collection**
- **Choir Rehearsal after worship**
- Monday** - **Sandy works remotely**
- **7:00 Budget & Finance Mtg**
- Tuesday** - **2:00 pm Faith in Stitches**
- Thursday** - **10:00 am Samaritan Fund Mtg**
- **7:00 pm Consistory Mtg**
- Friday** - **Office Closed; Pastor’s Day Off**
- Saturday** - **11:00 am – Choir Rehearsal**
- Sunday** - **Pentecost Sunday**
- **10:15 am Worship/Sunday School**

Thanks to our volunteers:

	May 12th	May 19th
Head Usher:	Tom Hovis	Tom Hovis
Ushers:	Rose Mirth Diane Neidermeier	Chuck & Karen Talboo Brenda & Tom Hovis
Lay Reader:	Brenda Hovis	Patience Steveson
Sunday School:	Sonya & Brett Dill	No Sunday School
Financial Sec:	Jerry Trexler	Jerry Trexler
Altar Flowers:	Tom & Brenda Hovis	Talboos

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 Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net