

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
PENTECOST SUNDAY
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
MAY 19, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Jesus, our sibling and friend, we thank you for your example, which guides us as we share the good news of God's love with a hurting world. Thank you for protecting us, teaching us, and equipping us to partner with you to work for love and justice. Help us share the joy we've found in our relationship with you. Empower us with the Holy Spirit, that we might testify to God's goodness. Amen.

**TODAY IS PENTECOST
THE PENTECOST STORY**

* **OPENING HYMN: *SING PRAISE TO GOD, WHO HAS SHAPED***

22

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: God has done great things for us!

People: We declare God's mighty works with all we have!

Pastor: In a world where there is deceit and unkindness,

People: We declare God's mighty works with all we have!

People: We praise the One who has kept us safe and provided for us.

People: We worship the One who has blessed us with holy wisdom!

Pastor: Let us worship God together!

People: Come, Holy Spirit!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Gracious God, Jesus prayed that his disciples would be protected from deceit. Sometimes, it's not easy to be bold in sharing how God's love has impacted our lives. We ask forgiveness for the times we have not been strong enough in sharing our truth, for fear of how others would respond. Help us find strength in Your promises to us. Help us share our joy with abundance. 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**

Pastor: Friends, take comfort. None of Jesus' disciples found this work to be easy, and sometimes they faltered. We aren't expected to be perfect either. We are sanctified in God's truth. Christ prays for us and guides our words and actions. We always have opportunities to grow in our discipleship, as long as we trust in Christ to lead us.

People: By the grace of God, we are forgiven.

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

New Testament: Acts 2:1 – 21

CHOIR ANTHEM: *CANTICLE OF PRAISE*

SERMON: *Don't Push It*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A NEW CREED***

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

Pastor: Holy One, when Christ ascended into heaven to reign with you in power and glory, you sent the Spirit of truth to guide us into the way, the truth, and the life of Christ. Let your Spirit, our Advocate, guide us still—preserving us from judgment, protecting us from sin, and leading us into righteousness, so that we may testify to the good news: fullness of life and joy for all; through Jesus Christ our Savior and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

(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

OFFERTORY

CHOIR ANTHEM: *FEEL THE SPIRIT*

* **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:**

Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair.

Amen.

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.

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 a 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 into 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.

(The pieces of bread in the cups are gluten free. The glasses in the center ring of the communion trays contain grape juice.)

(After receiving the bread.)

Pastor: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ broken for you.

People: Amen!

(After receiving the cup.)

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.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * **CLOSING 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 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: *CANTICLE OF PRAISE* - arr. by E. B. Jurey

Praise to the Lord! Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord, who doth bless and defend thee; Surely His goodness and mercy attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love He befriends thee. Praise to the Lord! Praise, praise to the Lord!

CHOIR ANTHEM: *FEEL THE SPIRIT* – R. E. Schram

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit movin' in my heart, I will pray. Yes, ev'ry time I feel the Spirit movin'; in my heart, I will pray. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing, sing, the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord. "Cause ev'ry time, ev'ry time, ev'ry time, in my heart, I will pray. Yes, ev'ry time, ev'ry time, ev'ry time, in my heart I will , I will pray. I'm gonna sing. I'm gonna sing!

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 the Talboos in memory of sister, Judy Wolcott.

Special thanks to Kevin Long and Sam Creyer for the Pentecost Display and to Patience Stevenson and Qiyi Stoffey for taking part in reading the Pentecost story.

Share your special musical talents with the congregation over the summer. Whether you are a vocalist or play any instrument, speak with Dennis Duda to get a Sunday slot just for you! Thank you!

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!

On Sunday, June 2nd, the Youth are invited to a Bowling Party from 12:30 – 2 pm. Then at 6 – 7:30 pm you are invited to a Presentation by Master Gardner, Consuelo Almodovar on Native Plants in My Garden. See Patience Stevenson for details.

There is a Summer Volunteer Schedule hanging in the Narthex. Please fill in where you can help. Thank you.

CALENDAR

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

- Today** - Pentecost Sunday
- 10:15 am Worship
- Monday** - Sandy WILL be in the office
- Tuesday** - 2:00 pm Faith in Stitches
- Thursday** - Sandy is Off
- Friday** - Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off
- Sunday** - 10:15 am Worship

Thanks to our volunteers:

	May 19th	May 26th
Head Usher:	Tom Hovis	Kim Ritter
Ushers:	Chuck & Karen Talboo Brenda & Tom Hovis	Donna Schoenberger Linda Torrence
Lay Reader:	Patience Stevenson	Barb Maursky
Financial Sec:	Jerry Trexler	Wes Koser
Altar Flowers:	Talboos	Foulkes

Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com
Pastor: 610-248-5586; pastorbruce@faithchurchucc.org
Organist/Music Director: 215-361-8641; ddduda@verizon.net