

**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
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Holy One, our Maker, we gather to worship you, to renew our spirits, and to connect as a community. Some of us crave a joyful noise, some flourish in quiet contemplation, others desire movement, while others need to ponder our thoughts. However we worship, we gather here. In this place, we find you in the midst of us. In this connectivity, we know that your covenant remains in effect. May your Spirit guide, empower, and speak. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

* **OPENING HYMN: *LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING*** 43

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Those who trust in the Holy One are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.

People: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

Pastor: We stretch out our hands and our hearts reaching for your goodness and righteousness.

People: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

Pastor: Lead us on good paths and make us agents of peace.

People: Surround us, O God, like the atmosphere around the earth.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Holy One, we confess our tendency to exclude rather than to include, to form closed groups rather than open communities, and to prioritize comfort rather than embrace curiosity. Help us to truly love our neighbor, whether family, friend, stranger, or foe, as ourselves and with the love you demonstrate toward us.

* **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: 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: Isaiah 35:4 7a

Psalter: Psalm 146

Gospel: Mark 7:24 – 37

HYMN: *GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS*

423

SERMON: *Far Beyond the Call of Duty*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**I believe in truth as a living Reality,
not captured in theory or a creed,
but revealed to those who love;
the truth of Jesus,
the Spirit of truth,
the truth of God.**

**Because I believe I trust,
not blindly but open eyed and bold
as a child climbing into a mother's lap;
the truth of Jesus,
the Spirit of truth,
the truth of God.**

**Because I believe I serve,
not as a slave that serves a tyrant
but like farmers reaping a harvest;
the truth of Jesus,
the Spirit of truth,
the truth of God.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Creator of the nations, your bold covenant with Abraham and Sarah is still being kept. Help us walk before you, grateful to be recipients of your faithful promises.

The day of the Lord is coming:

People: He abounds in steadfast love.

Pastor: Lord God, you do not despise the laments of those in dire need. You promise that the poor shall eat and be satisfied, and the yet unborn will proclaim your mercy. The day of the Lord is coming:

People: He abounds in steadfast love.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, you turn our hearts toward faith as the means by which we know we are your children. Keep us from wavering in our trust in Jesus, who was handed over to death for us, and raised for our justification. The day of the Lord is coming:

People: He abounds in steadfast love.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, like Peter, not knowing how formidable are our enemies, we would spare you and ourselves from suffering. Nevertheless, by your cross and passion you have defeated sin, death and the devil. The day of the Lord is coming:

People: He abounds in steadfast love.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son. It is the singular gift beyond all others...your divine love for us. Hear our prayerful thank you. The day of the Lord is coming:

People: He abounds in steadfast love.

Pastor: Suffering among us is always present, and we ask you to take care of those we name before you who have special needs for your presence and healing. 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.

(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

*** 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:**

Sovereign God, receive our offerings for the nurture and expansion of your kin-dom. May they be magnified and the spirit of generosity among your people amplified so that all may do well. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** CLOSING HYMN: LEAD ON ETERNAL SOVEREIGN 573**

*** 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.

Welcome to Faith Church this Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. 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 Tootie and Donald Koch in celebration of their 64th Wedding Anniversary.

Today is Joyful Noise Sunday. Make a Joyful Noise with your loose change!

September 15th is Back to Church Sunday! We will welcome new members and gather the Water for Communion. Sunday School will begin at 9 am and our service at 10:15 am.

The Caring Place

We will be collecting School Supplies for the Caring Place through September 15th – markers, highlighters, pens, pencils, erasers, paper, construction paper, poster board, notebooks, backpacks, and any other school item you might find. All donations are appreciated and used by the students. Please help out if you can.

Everybody Mark your Calendars for the PENNY PARTY! Join us Sunday, November 3rd for Faith's Penny Party! Bring your change! There will be FUN and PRIZES for the whole family! Doors will open at 12 noon - lunch and desserts will be available for purchase. Games begin at 1:00.

Penny Party Donations – We need your help to make this fundraiser a huge success! The Fundraising Committee is looking for donations for the Penny Party. Details are included in the September issue of Focus on Faith. There are totes in the narthex to place your donated items into. We will also be accepting baskets for a basket raffle or items to add to a basket. All donations are greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR

Sandy's Office Hours: Remotely - Monday 9 – 4
In Office - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 – 4; Closed Friday

- Today** - **10:15 am Worship**
- **Joyful Noise Collection**
- **11:30 am Faith Singers Rehearsal**
- Monday** - **Sandy Works Remotely**
- **7:00 Budget & Finance Meeting**
- Tuesday** - **2 pm Faith in Stitches**
- Thursday** - **3 pm Mission Mtg**
- Friday** - **Office Closed; Pastor's Day Off**
- Sunday** - **Back to Church Sunday**
- **9 am Sunday School**
- **10:15 am Worship**
- **Receive New Members**
- **Water Collection**

Thanks to our volunteers:

	September 8	September 15
Head Usher:	Cindy Talaber	Kim Ritter
Ushers:	Joan Hassler Elaine Trexler	Deb Herstine Linda Torrence
Lay Reader:	Joan Hassler	Patience Stevenson
Financial Sec:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Altar Flowers:	Kochs	Talboos
Lawn Crew:	Bruce Torrence Wes Koser	Mirth Crew

Office: 610-282-3939; faithchurchcv@gmail.com

Sandy works remotely on Mondays.

You can text or call her at 610-967-6232.

Pastor: 610-248-5586; pastorbruce.faihucc@outlook.com

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