

**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
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Good God, make yourself known among us. We lift our voices in song, our hearts in prayer, our minds in consideration, our lives in adoration toward you. We acknowledge that your Spirit leads, comforts, and challenges us as we follow you. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*** OPENING HYMN: *ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL* 31**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves as we seek the presence of the Sovereign God.

People: God is our helper, the upholder of life.

Pastor: The Holy One saves and delivers, vindicates and redeems, listens and responds.

People: God is our helper, the upholder of life.

Pastor: Give thanks to Holy Love and worship our Maker.

People: God is our helper, the upholder of life.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

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

Holy Love, we confess that too often we become fixated with our position in the world. We love the exercise of our own power and exert it over others rather for the benefit of the common good and your kingdom. Transform our hearts to crave you as the source of our power and love the only good and fulfilling demonstration of it. Make us your instruments of peace, joy, and hope in the world and agents of new life. 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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Psalter: Psalm 1

Gospel: Mark 9:30 – 37

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN: SING THEM OVER AGAIN TO ME

319

SERMON: *This Will Be The Second Time – Will They Get It?*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

We are a community of faith.

We share a vision of God:

**a God whose spirit is love,
accessible to all yet beyond our knowing,
the source of all being,
the way leading to wholeness,
the spirit which pervades everything.**

**We search for the meaning of God and our own experience
revealed in those sacred stories which have been passed down to
us.**

We tell them again and again:

**Of God the Creator, the Almighty,
who made everything that is,
and saw that it was good.**

**Of Jesus of Nazareth, who in history lived among us,
healed the afflicted, taught, suffered and died.**

He forgave those who crucified him.

**In the mystery of the resurrection
he continues to live more profoundly through the ages,
the Incarnation of Love, the Christ,
to whom his disciples have responded “My Lord and my God!”**

**He shows us the Way which leads to the reconciliation of all
things, saying “Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for
me.” It is the Way of love, compassion, justice, forgiveness
and peace.**

Of the Spirit, the Breath, the Wind of God,

the Giver of Life, the Holy Wisdom,

who inspires the people of God

**to cry out for justice for the powerless and oppressed,
to see the presence of God in every created thing,
and to respond with love.**

**Of the communion of saints: all the people of God,
living, dead and yet to be born,
who are empowered to recognize that they are,
and always have been,
brothers and sisters,
one family in God.**

**We are reborn in the Spirit,
followers of that Way shown by Jesus:
to love God with our whole being;
to love our neighbors as ourselves;
to treat others as we would have them treat us;
to strive for justice and peace;
to have respect and compassion for every person
and for the whole of creation;
to forgive those who do us harm;
to love one another as Christ has loved us.**

**We journey together on this Way
towards reconciliation with the whole creation.**

We break bread together and pray together.

**We reach out to one another
for strength beyond our own.**

This is our community. This is our faith.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND INTERCESSION

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

**Almighty God, in Christ you taught us to pray,
and promised that we would receive all that we ask in his
name.**

Hear now our prayers:

for the church universal ...

for this congregation, its mission and ministry ...

for the healing of the earth ...

for peace and justice in the world ...
for nations and leaders ...
for our local community ...
for the poor and oppressed ...
for the bereaved and lonely ...
for all who need healing ...

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

Pastor: Guide us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, that all of our prayers and all of our lives may serve your will and show your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING OFFERTORY

CHOIR ANTHEM: COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

*** 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:**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the gifts we receive from you and pray you receive our gifts for your kingdom. May they be a blessing and gift in our extended community and the world. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN: *IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST*** 394

* **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: *COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING*

- arr. by Paul Taylor

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing. Help us to praise: Father! all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear, in this glad hour. Thou, Who almighty art, now rule in ev'ry heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To the great One in Three, the highest praises be, hence evermore. His sov'reign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love, honor, praise, and adore!

Welcome to Faith Church this Eighteenth 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 the LaMar Beck family in memory of Ray Beck.

Penny Party Donations – 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** - 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Worship
- 11:30 am Faith Singers Rehearsal
- Monday** - Sandy Works Remotely
- Tuesday** - 2 pm Faith in Stitches
- Thursday** - 2 pm Mission Meeting
- Friday** - Office Closed; Pastor’s Day Off
- Saturday** - 2 pm Hall Rental SLHS Booster Club
- Sunday** - 9 am Sunday School
- 9:30 & 11:30 am Faith Singers Rehearsal
- 10:15 am Worship

Thanks to our volunteers:

	September 22	September 29
Head Usher:	Kim Ritter	Bruce Torrence
Ushers:	Cindy Talaber Kim Ritter	Karen & Chuck Talboo
Lay Reader:	Cindy Talaber	Karen Talboo
Financial Sec:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Altar Flowers:	Beck Family	Rose Mirth
Lawn Crew:	Bruce Torrence	Tim Hovis

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