

FAITH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034
610.282.3939

Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson, Lead Pastor
Mr. Dennis J. Duda, Organist/Music Director

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
APRIL 13, 2025**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God meets us in the night - before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure. God meets us in the light - where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables. God meets us in between - at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith. And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us everywhere - at the water's edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call. We are not alone. God is all around. Let us worship the God of everything. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

As it is recorded in the prophet Zechariah: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

As the people spread their coats palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him into our lives this morning. King of Glory, King of Peace, Servant King, reign in our hearts and lives this day and all days, that we might praise your holy name. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

CENTER OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: On this day, Jesus marched

**People: in between the city walls and the Temple,
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

Pastor: On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been
and what could be.

**People: So may we meet Christ in that liminal space. May we
lay down our coats in that messy middle.**

Pastor: Hosanna in the highest!

People: Hosanna in between!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: Great Creator, forgive me

**People: when I speak before listening,
when I speak over my neighbor,
when I speak with barbed words.**

Pastor: Creator God, forgive me

**People: when I listen to society,
when I listen to my friends,
when I listen to the news,
but I do not listen to you.**

Pastor: Creator God, forgive me

**People: when I shout out, but do not shout your name,
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice. Forgive
me.**

Pastor: Create in me a heart like yours.

Unison: Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals
this year, whether or not this is your first time in church

or your thousandth time, whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice, God listens to you.

God is merciful.

God is abounding in steadfast love.

There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

People: We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven. Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.

SERMON: *A Walk Though Holy Week*

Introduction

The Triumphal Entry – Matthew 21:1 – 11

Jesus Cleansing the Temple – Luke 19:45 – 46

Judas Bargains with the Sanhedrin – Luke 22:1 – 6

Jesus Washes Disciples' Feet – John 13:1 – 17

HYMN: *JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE*

I am weak, but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long As I walk let me walk close to Thee. Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea, Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thro' this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea, Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

The Last Supper – Luke 22:7 – 20

In the Garden of Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36 – 50

HYMN: *JOURNEY TO GETHSEMANE*

219, vs 1

Journey to Gethsemane, go and feel the tempter's power; Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch the anguish of this hour; Do not hide or turn away: learn from Jesus how to pray.

Jesus' Trials – Luke 22:66 – 23:25

HYMN: *O SACRED HEAD NOW WOUNDED*

226 vs 1

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, your only crown, How pale you are with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does your visage languish which once was bright as morn!

The Road to the Cross and Crucifixion – Luke 23:26 – 47

HYMN: *WHAT A WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS?*

223 vs 1

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 Christ should come in bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe that many years ago a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.

We believe that on that day the people cried out, longing and praying for a better world.

We believe that these longings came from a place of deep hope,

and we believe that hope cannot be silenced.

So we listen for the Spirit.

We sing Hosanna.

We pay attention.

For in between the silence and the song, we believe the Spirit is speaking.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Holy One, we are delighted with your arrival into our lives and the world! We join the crowds to sing your glory and praises. At the same time, although our hearts are close to true worship, our minds do not dwell upon real understanding. We fail to acknowledge and appreciate your humility. Sometimes, we are not motivated by your glory. It was our sins that took your life though you are our creator. Our betrayal provokes us to war, although you have always desired peace. Please help us to understand your glory and show faith in you from hereon.

(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
Sustain 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**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

CHOIR ANTHEM: *POWER OF THE CROSS*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE – THE DOXOLOGY

*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 DEDICATION

**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: *ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR* 216

*** BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

*** MEDITATION**

*God meets us in the night - before the sun rises, before the
wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.*

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*** POSTLUDE**

*Would those who are able please stand.

CHOIR ANTHEM: POWER OF THE CROSS

- L. King quoting I. Watts and L. Mason

A dying man hung on a cross to set us free, He paid the cost. God sacrificed His holy Lamb, His precious Son, the great I AM! O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss O the power of the cross! There was a cross that bore Your name, scarred by sin and stained with shame. But, on that cross, if eyes could see, He took your place on Calvary. O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss. O the power of the cross. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride, my pride. O the power of the cross! Lift it high to draw the world to Him. For our gain, He suffered loss O the power of the cross, the cross! O the power, the mighty power of the cross!

Welcome to Faith Church this Palm/Passion 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 Faye Tirpak in honor of her Mom's Birthday.

Thank you to the youth who will be taking part in the service this morning: Ainsley Dill, Addison Dill, Morrison Hite, Weiland Hite, Izzy Hovis, Hannah Kuhns, Lily Maginn, and Ryan York.

Spring Bingo will be held on April 27th and tickets are on sale now!! See Karen Talboo after worship.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service

April 17th

7:30 pm

Good Friday Vigil

April 18th

2 – 8 pm

(sign up in the Narthex)

Easter Sunday Service

April 20th

No Sunday School

Worship at 10:15 am

CALENDAR

- Today - 10:15 am Worship
11:30 am Choir Rehearsal
12:30 pm Encore Hall Rental**
- Monday - Sandy Works Remotely**
- Tuesday - 2:00 pm Faith in Stitches
7:00 pm Budget & Finance**
- Wednesday - 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting**
- Thursday - 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae**
- Friday - Office Closed/Pastor's Day Off**
- Sunday - 9:00 am NO Sunday School
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
10:15 am Worship**

Thank you to our Volunteers!

	April 13	April 17	April 20
Head Usher:	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence	Bruce Torrence
Usher(s):	Rose Mirth	Cindy Talaber	Chuck & Karen Talboo
Lay Reader:	Youth	n/a	Karen Talboo
Financial Sec:	Bruce Torrence	n/a	Bruce Torrence
Altar Flowers:	Faye Tirpak	n/a	Easter Flowers

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Sandy when working remotely – 610-967-6232

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

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



The Angel Mission Project is Returning to Faith Church!

Here's the Deal:

The Mission Team will give you \$50 as seed money to fund your own Mission Project.

Then you will create a plan to help that cause and make it happen! Please don't just donate \$50 to something. You should be the Angel in this mission project, not the money. You may combine your seed money with others and share a project.

In order to be able to stay in contact with each Angel we are requesting that you fill out an application. If for some reason you are unable to complete your Angel Mission we are asking that you return your \$50 seed money to the Mission Team.

On Easter Sunday, more information will be given and applications will be available.

You will have until Sunday, October 19th. You will have 5 months to complete this project. On that date you will present a 3-4 min presentation to the congregation about your Angel Mission. Please take pictures that can be displayed using our projection system.

Cover Photo:

I Believe | Steve Prince

The Artist's Statement can be found in the Lenten Book on page 40