

Faith United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

No Matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey,
You are welcome here!

October 13, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

18th Sunday After Pentecost



*stand as you are able

Prelude On the shores of Babylon by Pachelbel.

Pastoral Welcome

Come to me all of you who are weary and I will give you rest. - Jesus

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Whether we live in an apartment or a house;
if we reside in the suburbs or the city:

People: God tells us to pray for the places where we live.

L: Whether we are exiles or strangers
if we are young, old, insider, outcast:

P: God says, 'when you search for me, you will find me.'

L: Whether we have been wandering and lost;
or if we have lived in the same place all our lives:

**God says, 'I will gather you from all your places
and bring you home.'**

***Opening Hymn**

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

#70

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1978; Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

1 God is here! As we your people, meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

4 Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's celebration, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

***Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life:
Hear our prayer.**

**There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us
From one another and from You.**

**We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,
For fear of admitting our part in the separation,
For fear of being rejected when we reach out.**

**You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,
To a wholeness with each other and with You.
Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations
Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Moment of Silence for Personal Reflection

***Promise of New Life**

One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will always love you. This is the good news that brings us new life, restores our souls, and reinvigorates our dreams. You are whole and you are holy. Thanks be to God.

***Sung Response**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

***Sharing Christ's Peace**

L: The Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another greet and welcome those around you and share "the peace of Christ." If you feel more comfortable you are welcome to place your hands on your heart as you greet those around you. This may be a good option for you if you have social anxiety or are more introverted, this is a symbol of goodwill that you may be more comfortable with. Sharing God's peace can be done in many ways!)

A Time for All God's Children

Following the Children's message, the nursery is available for infants and toddlers under 4 years old. The nursery is located through the door at the right front of the sanctuary, and up the stairs. Church school is available for children and youth (4+ years) in Asendorf Hall (3rd floor). Children are always welcome to remain in the worship service.

Reading of Scripture

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Luke 17:11-19

L: A word from the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Canticle for Inner Peace" by Donald P. Moore

Sermon Finding Gratitude in Hard Times

***Hymn** Touch the Earth Lightly

#569

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1992; Tune: Colin Gibson, 1992

1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care: Gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live, We who would foster
clouds of disaster - God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet, Health in God's garden,
hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete.

4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun, Teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us, using us gently, and making us one.

Prayers of the People

We invite people to share their joys and/or concerns out loud so we can be praying for each other. We believe that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer.

After each expression, please end your prayer by saying *This is my prayer* and the people may respond: *God, hear our prayer.*

In the strength of our faith we pray together the prayer Jesus, who loves us and calls us by name, taught us to pray....

The Lord's Prayer

Ever loving God, 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Interludes for organ without pedal by Gregory Murray

Offering

***Doxology**

P: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

We offer our time, talent, and treasurers to be part of the movement of God's love. No matter how small or large, these gifts matter. Bless them to bring justice and to offer mercy as a light of guidance in a world in need of hope. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

We cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

#563

Text: Ruth Duck, 1984 (rev 1993); Tune: ENDLESS SONG, Robert Lowery, 1869

1. We cannot own the sunlit sky, The moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
For we are part of all that is Within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share The gifts of God's creation,
That all may have abundant life In ev'ry earthly nation.
2. When bodies shiver in the night And weary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears, And warhorns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, To join in common labor,
That all may have abundant life In oneness with their neighbor.
3. God calls humanity to join As partners in creating
A future free from want or fear, Life's goodness celebrating,
That new world beckons from afar, Invites our shared endeavor,
That all may have abundant life And peace endure forever.

***Blessing**

Postlude

Postlude in B flat Major by Ashford

Our worship is fulfilled, and our purpose is confirmed,
through our service as God's stewards to the world and all creation.
Use the blessings God has given you as you share
the joy in your heart, the wisdom in your mind,
the love in your spirit, and the peace in your soul.

Thank you for sharing sacred fellowship with us.



Welcome to all first-time (and returning) guests to Faith UCC! We would like to get to know you and for you to get to know us.

Join us after worship for coffee and **conversation**.

There is free parking on Sundays at the meters and at the McAllister & Pugh Street parking garages – so, we hope you'll worship with us again next Sunday!

Electronic Giving Options: During the offering time in the service, you may place your offerings on the plates the ushers will bring around. If you prefer to give electronically simply **scan the QR code** with your smartphone to be directed to our online donation page.



October Special Offering



Neighbors In Need (UCC)

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

You can learn more about them on their website: <https://www.ucc.org/nin>

Calendar items are listed in the Announcements.

If you'd like earphones for hearing assistance, please speak with an usher.

Faith UCC is an open and affirming church, embracing diversity in our congregation and community, and affirming the dignity and worth of every person. We are an inclusive community of faith that celebrates God's presence through worship and the sharing of God's word. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of the church, regardless of race, ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, capability, or circumstance of life.

Our Ministry

Ministers — All the Congregation
Liturgist — Matthew Haines
Trustee — Tom Daubert

Guest Preacher — Anne Ard
Guest Organist — Cecilia Sakong
Usher — Tom Daubert

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier
Organist—Mark Ferraguto
Pastor - Jes Kast

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

The family of Richard H. McCormack (Jane Lee Child's brother), the family of Beckie Romig (Manager for OOTC), the family of Don Asendorf, Patty Bittner (Jean's daughter), Dan and Eileen Pfaff, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Darlene Ripka, the Piggot family.

Please help us keep this list up to date. Notify the office of additions or removals.

Get In Touch with Us!

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Pastor email: PastorJesFaithUCC@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: 9:30 AM– 1:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Pastor Jes' office hours: 9-5 M-Th. Pastor also values community engagement.

Please contact the office ahead of visits.

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Prayer of Confession inspired by Beth Merrill Neel