

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!

December 1, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

First Sunday in Advent - Peace



*stand as you are able

Prelude

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

J. Brahms

Pastoral Welcome

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

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We may not know when,

People: but you are coming to us, grace overflowing from your heart, O God.

L: We may not know who,

P: but your hope will be shared by the least likely people, Friend of the poor.

L: We may not know how,

P: but your peace will transform our angry words into warm welcomes, our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Joy.

***Opening Hymn**

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

#107

***Prayer of Confession**

It is not easy for us to confess our sins, God.

**There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends,
which we would like to forget.**

**There are things we have done which we still feel self-righteous about.
There are times we've cast judgement instead of curated compassion.**

Forgive us, God who comes near to us.

When we have lost our way, show us yours.

Lead us in peace.

Teach us your peace.

Come to us this Advent, Oh Christ, and renew our hearts.

Moment of Silence for Personal Reflection

***Promise of New Life**

Behold, God makes all things new. Do not remember the former things. New life springs up and renews us and heals our hurts. God's love is wide and the mercy God offers is new every morning. Trust that our God is making our very lives new again.

-Influenced from Isaiah 43

***Sung Response** Canticle for the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that You bring to the ones who wait.

***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.

Advent Wreath Lighting

The Candle of Peace

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5

L: A word from the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Peace Path

***Hymn**

The Canticle of the Turning

(Insert)

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.*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

#347

PASTORAL INVITATION

No matter who you are or where you are in your journey, Christ invites you to this table of the feast of grace and love!

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: May the Approaching God be with you.

P: And also with you.

In the days to come, People of God, offer your hearts to the One who comes near.

We will lay aside all that keeps us from opening ourselves to God.

Now is the time to sing praises to the One who loves us.

We offer our thanksgiving to God, as we find ourselves standing within the gates of Advent.

Together we sing our praise to the God who knits us together in the feast of love and grace:

All: (singing) (#277, stanza 1)

Holy, holy holy, God the Almighty!

All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Words of Institution

L: On the night he was betrayed...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

L: Holy Spirit, bless these gifts. Take these grapes and take this wheat, may they nourish us in body and soul for the days to come. These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. Come now, for all things are ready.

(Instructions: The ushers will serve communion to you in your seats. Please hold onto the elements until all are served so that we may feast together.)

Vulnerable God, who approaches us this Advent, we have been fed by the presence of your love at this table.

P: May the peace of Christ practiced at this table center our souls to live with a calm assurance this week that Emmanuel is here.

In the fortitude of our faith we pray together the prayer Jesus 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

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 for Offering and Pledge Commitment

*Closing Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#116

*Blessing

Postlude Sortie in F Major

C. Franck

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.



December Special Offerings

Please note there are **2** special offerings this month.

The **UCC Christmas Fund** (formerly Veteran's of the Cross) is our traditional December offering.

Penguin Packs is the additional offering, to help cover expenses through the rest of the year because we're serving so many more children than last year.

Please note your offering (amount/organization) in the memo line or on the envelope.

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 — Sue Cromwell

Pastor — Jes Kast

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier
Organist—Mark Ferraguto

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), 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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On the Web: www.faithucc.info facebook.com/SCFaithUCC

Church Office Email: faithuccsc@gmail.com

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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