

# *Faith United Church of Christ*

*"An inclusive spiritual family shaping a better you for creating a better world.*

*A place to make a difference."*

January 21, 2018

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

*We are delighted that you are here today! We hope you will find us an affirming, uplifting, and committed family of faith. Here we work to make everyone, without any exceptions, to feel accepted, inspired, and encouraged in their spiritual journey. In dialogue, we seek to understand. In encouragement, we seek to heal. In all things we yearn to live by love, for peace, with joy. This is a place where your intellect will be challenged, your heart will be nurtured, and your spirit refreshed. Varying beliefs are expressed openly and freely, and your doubts will not be suppressed. We trust that we are all, every person and part of creation, continuing to be blessed by God's grace; and that in community we can help each other to see this grace alive in our lives and relationships. We hope to share our gifts with you, even as we pray that you will want to share your gifts with us. Whoever you are and wherever you may be in your life's journey, we invite you to be a part of our lives and our spiritual home. Welcome!*

## **CALLED TOGETHER AS SPIRITUAL FAMILY**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

*Please sign the registration pads at the ends of the pews on the center aisle.*

*We ask that you please shut off cell phones and practice quietness during the service.*

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after the worship  
in Romig Hall (lower level of elevator or stairs).*

*\* = You are invited to stand as you are able*

### **Prelude**

"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"

J. S. Bach

### **Welcoming the Light of Love in Our Midst**      *(acolytes light altar candles)*

*We prepare ourselves for communing with the sacred as love's light is brought into our awareness. The light of love burns within and among each of us, and we carry that light into our sanctuary; visually reminding us of the image of the divine that lives in our hearts, minds, and souls – and that we nourish through our faith-filled fellowship.*

### **Affirming God's Presence in Us All**

"You Matter!"

### **\*Centering Our Souls**

You call us, O God, to imagine realities that our practical minds cannot understand.

**We think in terms of what is possible based on the past, but you call us to act on what grace can create for our future.**

We are too often grumpy like Jonah, not wanting to respond to the call to create a better world, and even being disappointed when things turn out better than our predictions.

**Help us to have faith in your ways, and to trust in those we may not believe are trustworthy.**

For Jonah despised the Ninevites, and yet they were found to be faithful.

**Put away our preconceived notions of other people that we might find the goodness in them even as God did in the story of Jonah.**

Help us transform our lives that they may be emptied of violence and filled with peace, devoid of all forms of evil and permeated with truth, forgiveness, and compassion.

**For until we learn to trust in your ways over our own, we will continue to judge rather than bless.**

Grant us the insight of introspection, the blessing of discernment, and the grace of good will.

**Help change the outcomes we feel are inevitable to the destiny that you wish for us.**

Teach us how to be persistent with the Jonahs in our lives, and how to trust in those we see as unworthy Ninevites.

**For your goodness comes not in controlling, destroying, or overthrowing them but in seeing them as our brothers and sisters whom we are to love.**

In all things may we seek to work towards repentance, reconciliation, and restoration so that we may all be the people you have called us to be in relationship with others.

**Bless us in these endeavors as we rise, go, call out, forgive, transform, and make peace. May it be so now and forever.**

\*Hymn Faithful Service

“Forward through the Ages”

#377

**Our Stories of Random Acts of Kindness & Intentional Deeds of Compassion**

**WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES**

**A Time for All God’s Children**

**Prayers**

*Sharing Our Joys and Concerns*

*Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People*

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Unison Prayer “Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer”*

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 temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. May it be so.

**\*Hymn for Creating Peace**                      “God Has Given and Forgiven”                      **see insert**

**Scripture Lessons**                                              Jonah 3.1-10

**Message**                                              “Divine Possibilities and Human Potentialities”

**\*Hymn of Acceptance & Trust**                      “Help Us Accept Each Other”                      **#388**

**WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD’S SERVICE  
THROUGH FAITHFULNESS**

**Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

*“Generosity arises from gratitude like heat arises from fire. Like fire, gratitude is lovely to see; but when it warms others with generosity, that is when it becomes a true blessing.”*

**Offertory** “Organ Improvisation”

**\*Song of Dedication**

*Tune: Old Hundredth; p. 7*

The light of love does shine most bright  
when all are siblings in our sight;  
We are one fam’ly on this earth;  
We are God’s children from our birth.

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God of every nation and all creation: We are grateful for your love and mercy, shown so abundantly to us and to all. We are much more willing to give to those we think are deserving, but we know we need to be more generous than that. For those in need, whether friend, family, or foe, may these tithes and offerings be a blessing to them. Help us to be your voices of peace, your arms of forgiveness, and your heart of love for all peoples and all creatures throughout this wonderful earth. Let our giving be a foundation for the building of friendships throughout the world, in the name of the one who was a friend of all, may it be so.

**\*Encouragement for the Journey**

When life brings you loss, sadness, or suffering, may the hope within you rise like a cool, refreshing stream. When circumstances are disillusioning, painful, or despairing, may the faith by which you sail be persevering and bring you back safely to the harbor of peace. In all your life, remember that you are born to give wings to love. Be

thankful for the love you have received, and be generous in the love that you give. May your life be laced with grace.

**Postlude**

Postlude in F Major

E. L. Ashford

**\*The Light of Love Goes into the World**

*Love's light is not extinguished from our worship, but is transferred from the flame of the candles to the passion in our hearts that we may go forth to let the light of love shine through us as we go to serve in the world!*

**WE GO FORTH AS PEACEMAKERS  
TO CREATE JUSTICE FOR ALL**

*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:**

offering time in the service, you may place your offerings the ushers will bring around. If you prefer to give simply **scan the QR code** with your smartphone to be our online donation page.



During the on the plates electronically directed to

**January Special Offering**

**Centre County Women's Resource Center Services** ([www.http://ccwrc.org](http://ccwrc.org)) for women, men, and children who have experienced dating & domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "Women's Resource Center" noted in the memo line.



- January 28 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany
- February 2 First Friday
- February 4 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany
- February 11 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany
- February 14 Ash Wednesday

### Get In Touch with Us!

Faith United Church of Christ, 300 E. College Avenue, State College, PA 16801  
Tel: (814) 237-3904 Websites: [www.faithucc.info](http://www.faithucc.info), facebook.com/SCFaithUCC  
Church Office Email: [faithucc@comcast.net](mailto:faithucc@comcast.net) Pastor's Email: [revbmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:revbmyers@yahoo.com)  
Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

Please make an appointment with Rev. Myers if you would like to meet with the pastor.  
You may call the church office, or his cell at 608-370-9472.

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	Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers
Trustee — Larry Bair	Ushers — Mary Jane Wild
Liturgist —	Children's Message —
Acolyte —	Nursery —
Fellowship — June Irvin	

### Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier	Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Organist—Mark Ferraguto	Choir Director – Mike Dolan
	Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

*The liturgies for this morning's worship, along with the Song of Dedication, were written by Rev. Bret S. Myers except where otherwise noted.*

***Prayers for healing and wholeness:***

Bob Ritzman, the family of June Brown, the family of Jean Weller, Lisa B. (JoAnn's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Bunnie Hartswick, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot family, Robert Zupp (Eileen Pfaff's nephew), the Snook family.

