

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 22, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

Love



*stand as you are able

Prelude

"Rorate Caeli"

Jeanne Demessieux

Pastoral Welcome

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

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

People: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

L: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presents, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

P: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas. It's only a few days away and we still have so much to do. Our preparations are far from complete, and we are exhausted. Help to stop and breathe. Help us to be present to each other. It's tempting to get caught in our list of baking items, and gifts to wrap, but help us more than anything to feel the warmth of your love with us. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. Amen.

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. Trust that our God is making our very lives new this Advent season.

-Influenced from Isaiah 43

***Sung Response**

From the Canticle of 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.

Scripture

Luke 1:39-56

Anthem

Sermon

Revolutionary Love

***Hymn**

Mary, Woman of Promise

#123

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 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**

Bless these gifts and nourish our community.

Bless our talents in service to each other.

Bless our belief that your love really does change the world and you are inviting us to be part of the change.

Bless us to be bearers of Christ's love. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

What Child is This

#148

*Blessing

Postlude

"Lauda Sion"

Marcel Dupré

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 - Jim Welsh
Usher — Tom Daubert

Pastor — Jes Kast
Trustee — Tom Daubert

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 Daniel Pfaff, Patty Bittner (Jean's daughter), 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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Church Office Email: faihuccsc@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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