

Faith United Church of Christ

*“An inclusive spiritual family shaping a better you for creating a better world.
A place to make a difference.”*

March 25, 2018

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sacred Fellowship 10:45AM

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

“Dearest Jesus, we are here,” BWV 731

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.

***Procession of Palms by the Children**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

#213

Affirming God’s Presence in Us All

“You Matter!”

***Centering Our Souls**

“A True Celebration of Palm Sunday”

Inspect our motivations, O God, and make us a faithful people for the right reasons.

For we too often expect a profit from our investments in goodness, and a reward for self-sacrificial behavior.

Jesus taught us another way: how to love others as we love ourselves...how to share all that we have with others rather than holding to our possessions.

We find ourselves being as baffled as the rich man who turned away from Jesus when asked to go and sell all that we have and give it to the poor.

Like him we'd rather emphasize how we have obeyed the commandments, though without really living by their spirit.

May we be more like Christ, asking others: "What do you want me to do for you?"

Help us to remember that we are to be the servants, not the served.

For the greatest among us are those who are committed to serving others.

Inspire us not to seek rewards for our faithfulness, but only to be faithful to faithfulness.

And so may we make each day we have to live a gift we give to others as we commit ourselves to serving God and serving God's people and creation. May it be so, now and always.

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

Choral Anthem Hosanna to the Son of David by T.L. da Victoria

A Time for All God's Children

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer: "Poetic Prayer in the Spirit of Christ"

Loving Spirit, who is here and there,
we're grateful for your tender care.

Your virtues rise, your values prized;
near and far, and everywhere.

Feed our bodies, and feed our souls.

And by forgiveness make us whole.

And may we all evils deplore,

as we search and sail for mercy's shore.

May peace and love within us rule,

and justice be your Spirit's tool;
Now and always, for us and others,
and for all creation.
May we make it so, all as one,
by your inspiration.

***Hymn of Exaltation** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

#192

Scripture Lesson Mark 10.17-11.11

Message "A Day in the Life of Jesus"

***Hymn for Commitment to the Way** "O Jesus, On a Donkey"

Tune: Angel's Story 76.76 D; Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1881;

Words: Rev. Bret Stuart Myers, 3/23/2007 ©

O Jesus, on a donkey did ride through shouting crowds
They with their palms high waving declared, "Hosanna!", loud
They laid their cloaks before you; they praised you as their king
But would they with you suffer, when on the cross you'd cling?

Blessed be the name of "Jesus," who comes by God's own grace
You taught love to all people, considered not their place
When told to stop disciples from offering their praise
You said, "If these were silent, then stones their shouts would raise!"

And when you saw the city, before it you did weep
Because there was no peace there, you knew what it would reap
You cried because they'd hidden the truth from their own eyes
Though God had sent a savior, his truth they did despise

You entered in the temple, into the house of prayers
But greed had brought the sellers there with their tempting wares
You drove them from the temple, reclaiming God's decree:
"God's house is not a market, but there to bend your knee."

O Jesus, help me follow, despite a looming cross
When fears or dangers threaten, may I not count the cost
Like you may I go forward to pave the way for peace
And if with pain I suffer: My love, 'midst death, increase!

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

When we give thanks, then go to sow;

Our blessings are assured to grow.

We are not known by what we keep;

We're known by deeds that others reap.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God of Prophets and Peacemakers: We are thankful for your blessings of encouragement as we, like Jesus, seek to correct injustices and come to the defense of those without voice. May these tithes and offerings be instrumental in nurturing equality, promoting peace, and establishing harmony between all your peoples and all your creation. Help us to be generous not only with our monetary-giving, but also with our truth-giving, life-giving and soul-giving – for the betterment of your world. May it be so.

***Encouragement for the Journey**

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;

grace to risk something big for something good;

grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth

and too small for anything but love.

So, may God take your minds and think through them;

may God take your lips and speak through them;

may God take your hearts and set them on fire.

Rev. William Sloane Coffin

Postlude

Sortie in F Major

C. Franck

***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.

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
Trustee — Tom Daubert
Liturgist —
Acolyte —
Fellowship — Consistory

Interim Pastor — Rev. Bret Myers
Ushers — Tom Daubert
Children's Message —
Nursery —

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier
Organist—Mark Ferraguto

Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
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:

Susie Keck, Joann Edwards, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), the family of Lois Bair, Carlton Miller, Bob Ritzman, the family of June Brown, 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.

Altar Flowers courtesy
Tom and Linda Daubert



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.



March Special Offering

[One Great Hour of Sharing](http://onegreathourofsharing.org/) (http://onegreathourofsharing.org/)

One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. Learn more at: <http://onegreathourofsharing.org> Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "OGHS" noted in the memo line, or the special envelope on Sunday, March 25th.



- **March 25** 6th Sunday in Lent
- **March 29** Maundy Thursday, 7^{PM}
- **March 30** Good Friday
Public Meditation, Sanctuary, 1-3^{PM}
Eccumenical Services, Univ. Bapt & Brethern, 1-3^{PM}
- **March 31** Holy Saturday
- **April 1** Easter

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
facebook.com/SCFaithUCC
Church Office Email: faithucc@comcast.net Pastor's Email: revbmyers@yahoo.com

Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays
Pastor Bret's Office Hours: Tuesday 5-8 p.m., Wednesday 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday 2-4 p.m.
or other hours by appointment.

Appointments are recommended so as to give you the time you need without interruptions. You may call the church office, or his cell at 608-370-9472, or email him at revbmyers@yahoo.com.