

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!

February 2, 2020

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

4th Sunday After the Epiphany



*stand as you are able

Prelude

"Keep us, Lord, by Thy Word"

D. Buxtehude

Pastoral Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Happy are those who are gentle,

People: for they are in charge in God's kingdom.

L: Happy are those who grieve,

P: for God will comfort them.

Happy are those who obey God,

for God will make them leaders.

L: Happy are those who wish for fairness for everyone,

P: for their wish will come true.

Happy are those who forgive others,

for they shall be forgiven.

Happy are those who put being a disciple first in their lives,

for they will know God personally.

Happy are the peacemakers,

for they will be called the children of God.

Happy are those who are mistreated when they do what God wants,

for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Happy are you who know God's love.

For it is God's love that makes us happy.

***Opening Hymn**

All are Welcome

(see insert)

***Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God; we enter your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from you and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord have mercy and forgive us through Christ. Amen.

Moment of Silence for Personal Reflection

***Promise of New Life**

In Christ, God has given you a new Light, kindling unconditional love for you, and showing you a well lit path. Live at peace and know you are forgiven in the name of the Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sung Response

Hymn #772

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.

Those who seek God shall never go wanting. (x2)

God alone fills us.

***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

Micah 6:1-8

Matthew 5:1-12

Anthem

Bread of the World by Richard Shephard

Sermon

A Church that Blesses

***Sermon Hymn**

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

#180

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 with: **God, hear our prayers.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

#347

PASTORAL INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

God is with us!

We are not alone!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love,
you are beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love;

Mother, Child, and Animating Force,

you are creative and self-giving,
generously moving.
In all the near and distant corners of the universe.
nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
your presence never fails us,
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,
eternal as your love, our bond to one another.
We rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
and with angels and archangels,
to proclaim the glory of your name:

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.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,
we may taste and see your goodness,
so that we might catch a glimpse of what it is to be in communion with you and with
one another.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

The feast of grace is now ready. Let us partake with joyful hearts of gratitude.

(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.)

Together we pray:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love;

we are strengthened by your life.

We are sent forth into this world

to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts.

We are now commissioned to:

feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God.

In the unity of our faith through Christ our Lord we continue our prayers....

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**

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a confusing world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by pain, loneliness, and sorrow. Accept our offering as we shine our lights from our hearts of gratitude of grace. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

This Little Light of Mine

#524

***Blessing**

Postlude

Short Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major

J. S. Bach

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.



February Special Offerings



MidPenn Legal

Mid-Penn Legal Services (<http://www.midpenn.org>) MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit, public-interest law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice and high quality civil legal services to low income residents and survivors of domestic violence in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania.

Make checks payable to Faith UCC with "MidPenn" noted in the memo line or on the offering envelope.

Calendar items are listed in the Announcements.

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

