

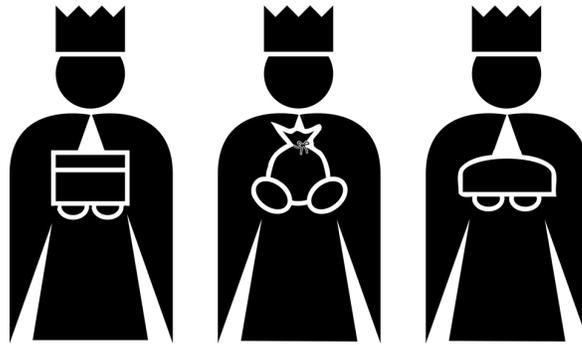
Faith United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

No Matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey,
You are welcome here!

January 6, 2018

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM



Epiphany

Prelude

“In Thee is Joy”

J. S. Bach

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*

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We will let the Mystery of God draw us in on this joyful day.

People: Like the Wise Ones we have seen the star – the light of God.

Leader: We are on a journey and we walk by faith and the love of God.

People: The light of God is in each one of us and draws us together into this sanctuary for all people. Each one of us belongs here.

Leader: With our questions, with our hopes, with sadness, and with our excitement we trust Christ meets us here in the warm embrace of God's love.

People: We will let the love of God's light shine in us now and always!

***Opening Hymn**

We Three Kings

Written: 1857

Melody: "Three Kings of Orient" by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Published: 1863

1. We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star. **Rf**

Rf O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. **Rf**

4. Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Rf**

3. Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high. **Rf**

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies. **Rf**

Call to Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins so that our souls may be centered and we may find freedom. For God is gracious and is quick to forgive.

People: Merciful God, you have called us to live at peace between all people. Sometimes we have said unkind words. Sometimes we have thought unkind thoughts. Sometimes our love for ourselves has been hidden behind the wall of shame. Sometimes our biases and prejudices have hindered us from ensuring equity and equality for all people. We need your help. We desire to be people who do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Help us, we pray, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A moment of silent confession

Assurance of God's Grace

Leader: God is slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, compassionate and gracious to all.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Sharing Christ's Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: 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 are sick and prefer not to spread your germs you can place your hands over your heart and welcome people as a peace offering.)

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.

Special Music Marinda Jenkins, soloist

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-8
Matthew 12:1-12

Leader: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Wise Ones on a Journey

***Hymn** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
Written: 1907 Melody: Ode to Joy, Ludwig
Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. Published: 1863

#4

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,
all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
by that love our joy renew.

2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
teach us what our praise should be.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,
reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward,
faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward
in the triumph song of life

Prayers of the People

Believing that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer. After each expression, the people may respond: *God, hear our prayer.*

Offering Organ Improvisation

*Doxology

**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

Generous God, you call us to be generous and to share what we have with others. Bless these gifts, O Lord, that they may do the work in the world to further mercy, peace, and justice through the grace of You.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

Text: Carl P. Baw, Jr.

Arr. Julius Röntegn, 1865-1932

Music (IN BABILONE): *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlitien en Contradannen* 1710

1. As we gather at your table,
As we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
Let our hearts and minds be stirred.

Nourish us with sacred story
Till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet
How to make Love's vict'ry known.

2. Turn our worship into witness
In the sacrament of life;
Bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion

To forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image
In the world you came to save.

3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon
Other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome
Those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
Nor will price our peace destroy;
As we join with saints and angels
To repeat the resounding joy.

INVITATION

L: Sisters, brothers, and siblings of God, this is the joyful feast of God's love. Come from the east and west, from the north and south and gather around Christ's table.

P: Behold how good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell in unity together!

L: Bright shining God, inner light of all faithful souls,
We celebrate your gifts of love, creation, and art.
We rejoice that you have made us in your image
And call us to live in your limitless love.

You bring peoples and leaders to the dawn of your rising.
You sent your only child, our morning star, to light a way in our night
And lead us to justice and peace.
Your Holy Spirit shines good news into our lives.

Each daybreak you call us to feed the hungry, bring sanctuary to the weary,
Liberate the oppressed and the oppressor, heal the brokenhearted, and be watchful for
the in breaking of the reign of God.
For all this we give you thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: God be with you

P: And also with you

L: Lift up your hearts

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us thank our thanks and praise to God

P: It is good to give God our thanks and praise.

L: O God, who has cleared the fogginess of confusion and brought us into the light of understanding, we remember your eternal promise to lead your people from the shadows of bondage to freedom's new dawning. We recall how in the fullness of time you gave us yourself in Christ Jesus to be the light of the world. We thank you that by the power of the Holy Spirit we are sustained for the journey just like you sustained the magi.

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 has risen.

Christ will come again.

L: By the presence of your Holy Spirit, may these gifts You offer us here at Christ's Table transform ordinary things to holy things, so that as we eat and drink of them, we may be fed and nourished with the body and blood of Christ, and so be united with Christ until we shall feast face to face with him at the glorious table of heaven.

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.

L: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

(We will receive communion by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and partake. You may return to your seats by the side aisle. You are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing at this time if you choose not partake in the elements. We will serve communion to you in the pew if you are unable to come forward.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: You have created us, O God, in the image of the one whom we have remembered around this table. You have nourished us with good gifts for our journey ahead. With grateful hearts we ask your continuing Spirit to sustain our daily lives as we follow the light of Christ. Help us to invite people into the fold of your love, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

This Little Light of Mine

#524

Source: African-American spiritual

Tune: LATTIMER

adapted: William Farley Smith (1987)

1 This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine.

2 Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine;
everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine.

3 All through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine;
all through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine.

***Benediction**

Leader: The grace of God has been given to you in Jesus Christ.

People: God's light is shining here in our church, in our lives, and in our community.

Leader: The light of God shines upon your path and illuminates the way.

People: We do not need to fear for God is with us.

Leader: Go forth into your ministry now sharing the light of God's love in all you do and in all you say. You are the bright shining stars of God's love in a world in need of hope.

People: Hallelujah! Amen!

Postlude

Sortie on "We Three Kings"

*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 Pastor — Rev. Jes Kast
Trustee — Larry Bair Liturgist — Sue Cromwell
Ushers — Wayne & Edna Bicehouse, Jane Lee Childs
Communion Servers — Jaye Herrick, Clovis Morrisson, June Irvin, Tom Daubert

Church Staff

Custodian — Scott Luzier Church School Coordinator — Barbara Chellman
Organist—Mark Ferraguto Choir Director — Marinda Jenkins
Administrative Assistant — Jeff Stormer

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

Prayers for healing and wholeness:

Cyndi V.'s Family (mourning brother Steve), the family of Susie Keck, the family of Bunnie Hartswick, the family of JoAnn Edwards, Allen Killpatrick, Ben and Louise Harris, Jane Sheckells, Dan and Eileen Pfaff, Lisa V. (John Vincenti's daughter), Brandon G., Lisa Neidigh, Katelynn Wilson, Darlene Ripka, April S., Randy Brown (Aimee's Dad), the Piggot's family.

*Prayer is the best
wireless connection*

Please help us keep this list up to date. Notify the office of additions or removals.



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.



January Special Offering



Centre Safe, formerly the Centre County Women's Resource Center, provides services 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 "Center Safe" noted in the memo line or on the offering envelope.

Learn more at: <http://ccwrc.org/>

Calendar items are listed in the Announcements.

Get In Touch with Us!

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facebook.com/SCFaithUCC

Church Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays