

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 8, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 10:45 AM

Hope



Second Sunday of Advent

*stand as you are able

Prelude

Introit on "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
All Organ selections are from *Advent Suite*, by Pietro Yon

Pastoral Welcome

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

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Because of You, Righteous God, we continue our journey to Bethlehem,

All: trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.

L: For You, Child Jesus, we wait,

A: on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.

With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,

those for whom this season is not one of joy; those whose lives are empty of family and friends.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: God, I need you. Open my heart to feeling hopeful again. Sad days have turned into long nights of despair. Anxiety and worry has taken over and sometimes I shrink back wondering if I can really make a difference. Renew in me the joy of your salvation, restore to me the hope of your presence, and bring your Holy Spirit to me so that I may see the holy star in the sky leading me to Christ again.

Moment of Silence for Personal Reflection

***Promise of New Life**

L: 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**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

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.

Advent Wreath Lighting

The Candle of Hope

Choral Cantata and Scripture Narration

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Gregorian Chant

“Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Song of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, Oh Israel.”

Come, Emmanuel

Don Besig

Silent Night, Holy Night

arr. Kay Hawkes Goodyear

Come, Follow That Star

Don Besig

Dona Nobis Pacem

Traditional

“Grant us peace”

Noel! Noel!

Jay Althouse

ORDER OF BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: People were coming to Jesus in order to be baptized. Young and old sought the waters of new life.

All: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them”

P: Young and old, Jesus baptized in the waters of forgiveness in the name of the Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A: The waters of baptism are a sign of the grace of God and seal of God’s promises of new life.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS/ADULT

P: Do you desire to have your child baptized, and do you desire to be baptized, into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

RESPONSE: We do/I do

P: Will you encourage this child, and do you personally, renounce the powers of evil to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

R: We do/I do

Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and will you remain steadfast in your own proclamation of Jesus as Lord and Savior?

We/I will, with the help of God.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

R: We/I do, with the help of God.

P: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith? Do you promise to nurture your personal faith? To help him/you to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

We/I do, with the help of God.

***CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

All are invited to stand as able as the congregation is asked to make promises

P: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ Jesus?

A: We promise our love, support, and care

P: Do you promise your prayers and your commitment to the covenant of being siblings in Christ with these who are about to be baptized?

A: We promise our prayers and our commitment to our new siblings in Christ.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

(congregation may be seated)

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

P: Let us pray. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in these who are baptized this day that they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

P : By what name will your child be called? By what name are you called?

Response: Killian Ambrose Goheen/ Don Welker

P: **Killian Amrose Goheen/Don Welker**, I baptize you in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: The Holy Spirit be upon you, **Killian/Don**, child of God, disciple of Christ, members of the church.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

PRESENTATION

Pastor: Sisters, brothers, and siblings of Christ, I present to you **Killian/Don**, beloved children of God and friends of Christ! Let us welcome our new siblings of our faith!

Reception of New Members

Pastor: As I call your name, new members, will you please rise and come forward?

Church, we want to introduce you to your new siblings in Christ at Faith UCC.

Just like from our Sacred Stories, we have here: doubting and faithing people, raised UCC and New to the UCC, Spiritual Mystics and Catholics, Sacred Sojourners of many Traditions, and with varying connections to faith. Faith, like our lives, has had different meanings to each one of these people at different times in their life. We know that here in this place faith will take on different forms, too. That is what it means to have a living and active faith.

Today we make a covenant, one with another. New members, you make promises to us, before God, so that we know that we can count on you. And we make promises to you, before God, so that you know that you can depend on us through good times and hard times. You have a church and a people. So now we ask you:

Promises from the New Members

P: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? If so, please say, "I do."

Response: I do.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in your faith, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's work in all the world? If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? If so, please say, "I promise, with the help of God."

I promise, with the help of God.

Promise from The Church

P: Will the members of Faith UCC please rise in body or spirit.

Do you promise to help these gathered find their place in the body of Christ, to pray with and for them, to welcome them fully in holy friendship, to be angels for them in times of distress and servants to them in times of need? If so, please answer, "We promise, with the help of God."

We promise, with the help of God.

Welcome

P: Let us, the members of Faith United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

A: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this congregation. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of the Christ who is alive and well and at work in the world.

Blessing: Loving God, give to these your children strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the comfort of faith, love that cannot die, laughter in the company of friends, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Prayer for New Members

Let us welcome our new members with a joyous welcome!

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 Offertory on "Veni Domine" (Hymn for Peace)

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**

***Closing Hymn** My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

#106

***Blessing**

Postlude Toccata on "Creator of the Stars of Night"

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
Trustee — Tom Daubert

Pastor — Jes Kast
Usher — Jane Lee Childs, 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, the family of Richard H. McCormack (Jane Lee Child's brother), 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 before visiting.

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