

Words of Institution for the Cup
Serving of the Cup

*Please hold the cup until all have been served, and then drink when the Pastor indicates.
This symbolizes our response to God's love as a community gathered in Christ's name.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

One: Let us pray.

All: Thank you most Holy God, for meeting us here in this simple meal. May your presence within us ripple beyond us with ever expanding implications until the day when you gather all your saints from the four winds to share in your eternal banquet. In all our words and actions may your name be praised now and forever more. Amen.

*Hymn 122 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" (see insert)

*Benediction

Leader: Go from this place in the spirit of God's peace.

Men: Through deserts or valleys, we take God's message of peace to the world.

Leader: Go from this place in the spirit of God's love.

Women: Over high mountains or level plains, we spread the compassionate love of God.

Leader: A voice says, "Cry out!" What shall we cry?

All: God's love goes with us! God's peace will guide us! Amen.

*Benediction Response

*Postlude "Savior of the Nations, Come" Paul Manz

† † †

Our Ministry

Ministers—All the Congregation *Pastor*—Rev. Dr. Lois Martin

Communion Servers—Preparer: Wayne Bicehouse, Servers: June Irvin, Edna Bicehouse,
Paul Hallagher, Cyndi Vincenti *Liturgist*—X

Nursery—Janet Swim & Jeff Davidson *Trustee*—Dan Pfaff

Coffee Hosts—June Irvin *Ushers*—Larry Bair, Micah, Leah & Anna Bair

Church Staff: *Church School Coordinator*—Cindy Neidigh *Organist*—Mark Harries

Choir Director—Jacki Hunt *Secretary*—Karen Gilmore *Custodian*—Scott Luzier

WELCOME to Faith UCC. We're a church that "seeks to be a dynamic and inclusive faith community embodying the love of Jesus Christ as we grow through worship, learning, fellowship and service." We're glad you chose to worship with us today. **Please join us after worship for conversation and refreshments downstairs in Romig Hall.**

John & Susan Keck, give the rosemary trees on the altar today, in loving celebration of our 63rd wedding anniversary.



Faith United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Second Sunday of Advent / Communion

December 4, 2011

10:45 a.m.

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

We welcome you to our church and invite you to sign the registration pads at the end of the pew on the center aisle. Also, please join us following worship for fellowship and refreshments. Note to parents: There are special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12, along with a clipboard and crayons in the narth. Please ask an usher for assistance.

***Please stand at those places indicated by an asterisk.**

Prelude "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," BWV 659 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

Call to Worship (Responsively) L = Liturgist, C = Congregation

L: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

Men: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.

L: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

Women: Comfort, comfort O my people says our God of love.

All: The grass withers and the flower fades; But the word of our God will stand forever!

*Hymn 115 "The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore"

*Prayer of Invocation (In Unison)

Oh God You call to us from the wild places, You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts. We come in answer to your call. We come to pray, to praise, to learn of your love for all creation. Reveal your glory that we may see it together—Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in our time. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

One: Advent is the time of waiting and anticipation as we prepare to welcome Jesus anew. Like a family prepares a home for the arrival of a baby, we prepare our hearts for the arrival of God's own beloved Son.

Two: *John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness proclaiming, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

Three: John prepared the way in the wilderness. We prepare the way in our hearts.

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, we re-ignite the candle named paz, peace.

Today we light the candle named Amor, love. May this light shine to remind us that God is the peace and love that can never be extinguished. Amen.

Prayer of Confession: (In Unison)

Leader: God is love; the omnipotent and compassionate parent that holds the world tenderly in a warm embrace. God desires that we love each other as a mother loves her child, as a father embraces his own.

People: All too often we fail in our efforts to live as God would have us live. We push away turning cold shoulders to God and each other. We express anger and resentment instead of compassion and grace. We seek revenge instead of reconciliation. In these moments we ask God to forgive us and set us upon the right path.

Assurance of Pardon:

When we turn to God with faithful hearts, God hears and responds. Our failings and shortcomings are forgiven. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. God gives what is good and spreads the path of righteousness before us.

Walk in confidence forgiven and forgiving in Christ's name. **Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, greet and welcome those around you and share "the peace of Christ"; then be seated.

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 (chanted); Mark 1: 1-8.*

A Time for Children

x

After this, children up through grade 3 may leave for the Nursery; 4th graders and older are invited to remain in the service. To get to the nursery, go through the door toward the front of the sanctuary on the right, and up the stairs. Activity packets for older children are available in the narthex.

Sermon

Hymn 101 "Comfort, Comfort O My People"

Affirmation of Faith #887

L: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People each petition ends with... God in your mercy

please respond: **Hear Our Prayer**

Offering

Offertory "Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People" Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Love is an emotion that must be shared. When love is returned we experience belonging, happiness, joy. Jesus said we are to love our neighbor as God loves us.

Have you loved your neighbor today? Have you loved God? May these offerings demonstrate our commitment to love others as God loves us.

*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 (In Unison)

Holy God, the love we receive from you is beyond our comprehension. Accept these gifts of love returned to you from grateful hearts. As your love has no limits, may this offering be infinite in compassionate outreach to others. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Our Father 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.

Communion Anthem

Advent Passacaglia

Music: Mark Schweizer

A voice cries in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Come Lord Jesus, Come.

Invitation to Communion

Leader: Jesus said; I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution for the Bread

Serving of the Bread

Please eat of the bread when you are served. This symbolizes our personal relationship to God and response to God's love.

It's time to join the **Homewood Retirement Auxiliary for 2012**. See Jean Weller for details.

Make a Global Connection. See the **yellow** flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Second Sundays with Students. Faith UCC welcomes students to a lunchtime gathering after church on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Next week join us in the Gathering space and we will find a place for a study break. See Anneliese Bass.

Go to [Facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Faith United Church of Christ, State College, PA. Another essential addition to your media diet is our web page: <http://www.faithucc.info>.



SALE DATES: Dec 8, 9, 10

Gifts that make a difference, ethical, fair trade gift and crafts products from a range of developing countries.

HURRY! The Terri Lynn nuts and candy sold by the Daytime Women's Guild as a fundraiser are going fast! Some items are sold out. Come to Romig Hall following worship.

Women of the church, come join us for lunch at Taco Bell on Dec 12th

We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 AM and walk to Taco Bell. This is our way of supporting our "neighbor" and each other. Tell *Edna Bicehouse* if you plan to attend.

The special offering for December is Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross.

This fund supports those who serve the UCC, helping low-income Pastors and staff. To contribute, please write "Veterans of the Cross" on your check and place in the offering plate on the table in the Gathering Space. Please consider supporting this great mission.

Essence 2 Concert with Essence of Joy choir. December 10, 7:15 PM at the Penn Stater Hotel.

This will be a fund-raiser for Penn State Public Broadcasting. It will be on the radio and the tickets are \$20 (\$5 for students and those 18 and under). The link for purchasing tickets is:

<http://wpsu.org/events/winterfest>

Wednesday mornings, Pastor Martin will have a time for 'Spiritual Conversations' from 10:30 to 11:30. Initially, we will meet in the pastor's office. We will begin with prayer, a quiet time of centering prayer, a short few verses of scripture and then conversation which will be defined by what you bring, what is on your heart, where your spirit is leading you to question, to affirm, to seek. Also on Wednesdays, there will be a quiet prayer service in the Sanctuary from 12:15 until 12:45. Please join me for prayer and time to listen with God.

Chili Café

Don't forget to **sign up for this year's Chili Café!** The blue sign-up sheet is on the Gathering Space table—and all help is welcomed! The time is from **4:00 PM until 6:30 PM on Dec. 31**. Do encourage all of your family and friends to attend. Also, the New Year's Eve Watch Night Service at 8:00 PM. in the Sanctuary. The timing is such that you can work in/on the café and still have time afterward to attend the service and other events that evening. The **beneficiary** of the receipts from the Chili Café is our own **Friendship Tutoring Program**.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH CHURCH

TODAY	9:30 AM	Adult Forum (ML)
	10:45 AM	Worship (S) with Reverend Dr. Lois Martin preaching, followed by fellowship (RH)
	3:15 PM	Friendship Tutoring (final Fall session)
	7-8:00 PM	Al-Anon
WEDNESDAY	10:30-11:30	Spiritual Conversation
	12:15 AM	Scripture & Prayer
	1:00 PM	Membership & Fellowship MT (AB)
	3:30 PM	Service at Atrium at the Village led by Rev. Dr. Lois Martin
	7:00 PM	Advent Vespers
	7:30 PM	Worship & Arts Ministry Team meeting (AB)
THURSDAY	11-3:00 PM	SERRV SALE CONTINUES
FRIDAY	11-3:00 PM	SERRV SALE CONTINUES
SATURDAY	11-3:00 PM	HURRY- Our SERRV Sale concludes on the 10th!
NEXT SUNDAY	10:45 AM	Worship (S) with Reverend Dr. Lois Martin preaching, followed by fellowship (RH)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 7	1:00 PM	M&F meeting at Bicehouses'
DEC 13	7:00 PM	Outreach & Service MT meeting (AB)
DEC 14	7:00 PM	Advent Vespers
DEC 17	8:45 AM	Consistory meeting (AB)

AB = Antoinette Brown Room; AH = Asendorf Hall; ML = Meyer Library; RH = Romig Hall

I invite you to join me in daily morning devotions. Please sign the green sheet on the round table with your name and e-mail. *Pastor Martin*

USHERS	Dec 11	Tom Daubert , Mike Hogan, Lisa Hogan, Cyndi Vincenti
	Dec 18	Jean Cole , Ben Harris, Jeff Filko, Jean Frank
	Dec 24	Neil Christy , Alva Chellman, Wayne Bicehouse, Vaughn Shirk
	Dec 25	Clint Hegeman , Marcia Hegeman, Jane Childs, Davin Carr-Chellman

Church Consistory (Elders of the Church)

Davin Carr-Chellman—*President* Cyndi Vincenti—*Vice-President* Brent Frank—*Recording Secretary*
Don Asendorf, June Irvin, Sue Cromwell, Edna Bicehouse,
Carlton Miller, Mary Jane Wild, Vaughn Shirk, Lois Bair, Paul Hallacher
Barbara Chellman—*Financial Secretary & Ch Treasurer*
Cyndi Vincenti and Carlton Miller—*Assistant Church Treasurers*

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.

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
2 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
by your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Tune: JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7.D.
Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835