



January 31, 2021
ONLINE WORSHIP

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Reconciling in Christ Sunday Worship 2021 Coming Together Building Community

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
High School Leaders: Ryan & Addie Thompson
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Church email:.....faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

This year, *Coming Together Building Community* is the theme for RIC Sunday 2021. At ReconcilingWorks, our core identity is to build the Body of Christ so that we can come together and build a welcoming community for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, in all the human experiences that they hold. We focus this RIC Sunday asking the question, "How do we, the church, come together and build community, to express the fullness of God's diversity?" It is a service to turn us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, and to live for Christ and serve our neighbor.

PRELUDE

“Trumpet Tune on Gather Us In”

Extracted from worship 6/28/2020

by Mark Himmelman

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Holy Parent,

And of the + Child,

And of the Holy Spirit, whom we invite into this space.

Amen.

As a church, we believe all are welcome.

Let us name the ways we have fallen short in justice-making for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, women-identified people, immigrants, elderly, and those who do not have access to basic human needs.

And accept the challenges that stand before us.

To those who have been excluded by the church because of who they are and who they love

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who have systems created against them due to the color of their skin

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who do not have equal access to thrive due to government systems

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who do not see their identities represented in this church

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

To those who we, the church, have called "those people"

We ask forgiveness and welcome you

The Church is a place where we boldly proclaim and model welcome to each and every child of God. We confess that we have not always made that statement true, and as a result, have pushed away God's Beloveds from our spaces. So we share today, proudly: that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions matter; that Black, indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) matter; and that we as a church stand firmly against racism, homophobia, and transphobia. We seek forgiveness and commit to actions that will bring justice, equity, and healing to those harmed. We do all these things through God's guidance and grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Extracted from worship 1/26/2020

Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives

Adrienne Stricker

ST. DENIO

1. Im - par - tial, com - pass - ion - ate God of all lives,
2. Un - ho - ly, un - just - i - fied fear we in - cite,
3. Cre - a - tor of beau - ty, we stand not in pride,
4. Our hope is your free - dom for both great and small,
5. All hon - or - we give you, O help us to see,

in Christ you have shown us your love ac - tual - ized,
when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights.
we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.
to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.
your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.

in - car - nate and weak in the arms of the poor,
Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,
For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished by sin,
We chal - lenge and quest - ion each law with - out grace,
And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,

de - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.
we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.
a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.
af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.
to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

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GREETING

Called by the Holy Spirit, as people of Christ, we gather together in the endless diversity of God's creation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of Boundless love, you require each of us to love justice. May we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your love and grace fill our words and actions, turning us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, to live for you and serve our neighbor. Soften our hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of the Kin-dom of God, making the church a place where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, we pray, **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Footprints in the Sand”

Extracted from worship 1/26/2020

(Angerman)

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

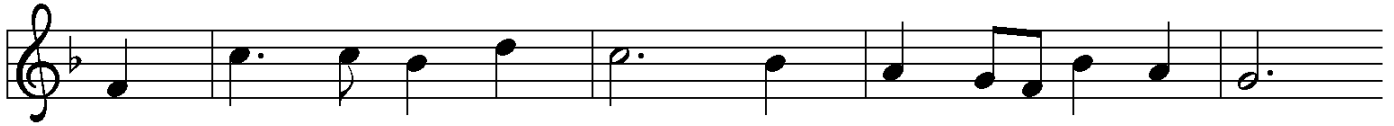
²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

RICH WEINGARTNER

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
 and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
 ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
 a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
 with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain

We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
 the love, the word, the tide.
 Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
 praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
 with faith's bright songful voice!
 Announce the gospel to the world
 and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need...

Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds:

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, through your grace.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

You sent us your advocate
so that we can know how to advocate for our beloveds
as you strengthen us to love and uphold one another.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and
the hosts of heaven,
we prayer your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

extracted from worship 1/26/2020

“For Everyone Born”

(Murray and Mann, arr. Trenney)

Chancel Choir

FOR EVERYONE BORN (Shirley Erena Murray)

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.
And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy.

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and color,
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.
And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy.

Communion – *Communion is shared among us in people’s homes*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Christ Jesus,

at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.

Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.

Amen.

SENDING & BLESSING

Siblings in Christ, let us go out into the world in peace; love boldly; proclaim loudly; welcome, include, and celebrate our Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQIA+ siblings; and enter back into this space knowing that welcome is a priority in this church.

Stand strong against injustices of this world; and let this faith community be a place of care and renewal for as people of God we are called to action.

Beloved, go in peace. Work for justice, encounter God in all you see, and know you are LOVED!

Thanks be to God.

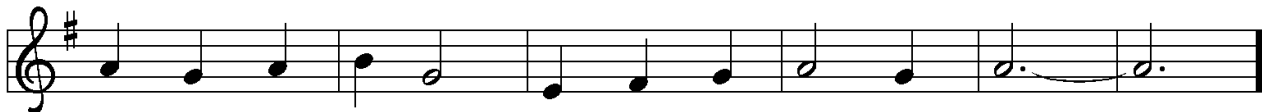
Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



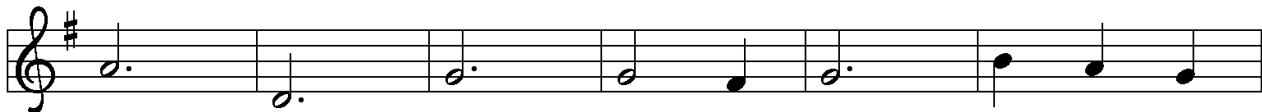
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

POSTLUDE

“All Are Welcome”

Extracted from worship 1/26/2020

arr. Ron Schmoltze

1/17/2021

Loose Checks	\$ 5.93
General Fund	\$2,110.00
Youth Bottle Return	\$ 7.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 767.61</u>
Subtotal	\$2,890.94
Simply Giving	
General	\$3,025.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total	\$5,940.54

1/24/2021

General Fund	\$ 2005.00
Whitmyer Memorial	\$ 50.00
Parish House Project	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$2,155.00
Simply Giving	
General	<u>\$1,190.00</u>
Total	\$3,345.00

Year to Date

January-December 2020

Income	\$262,470
Expenses	<u>\$274,979</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(\$12,509)

If you have the ability to support the church's work during this time, please do so as you normally would. You can mail your check to Faith Lutheran, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos MI 48864 or consider signing up for "Simply Giving", our online offering tool. Contact jon.harrison@comcast.net for more information on how to sign up.



The **Annual Meeting** will take place following today's online worship service.

Please use the zoom link below to join.

Topic: FLC Annual Meeting

Time: Following Sunday Morning online worship

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/4982126146>

Meeting ID: 498 212 6146

There is no password needed.

The Annual Meeting Agenda and Report have been emailed to members.