

Faith Prints

Congregational responses are in **bold**.

Call to Worship:

Leader: Breathing in, breathing out, the Spirit of God calls us to this time and place.

All: **Breathing in, breathing out, we practice living in the presence of God.**

Leader: Breathing in, breathing out, we practice as God loves the world.

All: **Breathing in, breathing out, God patiently shapes our fragile vessels into members of the eternal, grace-filled Body of Christ.**

Opening Prayer: *Say "please join me in the opening prayer"*

God of all life, open our hearts during this time of worship. Thank you for giving us the Faith Prints of those around us so that we can learn to follow You. Make us always aware of your presence. Amen.

Hymn: Pass It On

Call to Confession:

Our God is a God of compassion, waiting to be gracious to you, yearning to reach out to you in your time of need. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord in faith, please join me as we make our confession to God.

Surprising God, we often look for you in all the wrong places.

We work hard on huge anthems of intricate praise, yet we forget to seek you in the simple melody of a child.

We craft elaborate pageants full of drama, yet we forget to see you in the unrehearsed cry of the heart.

We work to build the best programs, the most successful classes, the most sought-after workshops, yet we forget to see you in the eyes of the lonely at the bus stop.

Guide us, O God, and open our hearts to find you in the unexpected places of our lives.

We pray in the name of the one who came, not as a king, but as a carpenter. Amen.

Prayer of Assurance:

God's word has the power to save your soul. God has anointed you with gladness. You are forgiven to live in joy. Amen

Praise the Lord!

The Lord Be Praised!

Song Response

Glory be to the Father; and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end, Amen. Amen.

Anthem: Multiply Your Love (sung by the youth choir)

Bringing of our Gifts:

Faith without works is dead. If someone were looking for evidence of your faith what would they find? Maybe you need to extend forgiveness to someone or to yourself. Maybe you need to work on a more loving relationship with your family or friends. Or maybe you need to find an act of service and outreach to pursue. Whatever it is, place it on your heart and release it to God as we now accept our offering.

Prayer of dedication:

Lord God, thank you for the blessings you continue to give us year after year. Help us to wisely use these treasures that have been brought before you. Lead us, while we are here on this earth to serve you through all the people around us. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Here I Am Lord

Scripture reading: (alternate scripture readers)

1 Timothy 4:12- Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

James 2:14, 20- What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?...faith apart from works is barren.

Philippians 1:27- Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Colossians 1:4- For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints.

1 Timothy 6:12- Fight the good fight of the faith; take a hold of the eternal life, to which you were called.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14- Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Message: Faith Prints

(Start message with these words from 2 different readers- and then go into each youth talking about their person.)

Reader 1: Fingerprints and footprints are helpful clues for investigators. Just as we leave these unique, identifying physical impressions, we are called by God to leave "Faith Prints" on our world and in our relationships. These prints are evidence that God is alive in our hearts and that we have been transformed.

Reader 2: We have faith because of the witness of God. All of us, at one time or another has been touched by the faith print of someone else. Let us remember those people as we join in a prayer of meditation. (short pause) Relax, open your hearts and be aware of Christ's presence with us; for where two or more gather in God's name, God has promised to be with us.

Reader 1: To begin our time in prayer, I invite you to name in your heart those who have left faith prints on your life- persons who encouraged and taught you faith, who lived their faith through acts of forgiveness and love. (pause)

Reader 2: Remember times when you have felt God's presence through creation- a beautiful sunset, a majestic mountain, the crash of the ocean's waves, a walk through the woods, sunlight as it filtered through a tree, or a clear night when the stars shone brightly. (pause)

Reader :1 Recall versus of scripture that offered you insight, encouragement, or guidance (pause)

Reader 2: Bring to mind the melody of a song, the words to a poem, or a work of art that reminded you that life was good and worth living. (pause)

Reader 1: Do you have memories of Christian fellowship on retreats, in worship, on mission trips, sitting with a friend when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit binding you together in Christ's love? (pause)

Reader 2: Have you experienced forgiveness from others?...from God?...(pause)

Reader 1: Have you had an experience of the heart? Have you felt God's spirit at work within you? (pause)

Reader 2: God's gift of faith is for everyone; but you must accept the gift (pause)

Reader 1: Spend these closing moments of silence opening your heart to the spirit of God and allow God's presence to transform you from within.

Reader 2: Strengthen our faith Lord and fill us with your Spirit. May our lives reflect you, your light, your beauty, and your peace.

Reader 1: And Lord...help us to learn to leave our own faith prints too. AMEN.

First youth: Her name is Ethel...etc.

Hymn: TBD

Benediction