



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 10, 2017

10:45 a.m.

WORDS OF WELCOME – Welcome to Faith Church; we are glad you are here.
Infant and childcare (through preschool) are provided all morning in the nursery, the second room on the right through the door by the pulpit. Children through the age of 4 may proceed to the childcare room following the “Moment with Faith Kids” for the remainder of the service.
Worship Bags are available in the back pews of the sanctuary.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

The candle is lit as a symbol of our prayers for peace.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns

Prelude Wachet auf!
(Sleepers Awake!)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

**Please, stand if you are able.
(The congregation will read the words in bold.)*

*Call to Worship

Sandra McWhirter

One: The prophet asks: can our soul-weary bones live again?

All: O God, you know!

One: We ask: can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

All: O God, you know!

One: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

All: God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

One: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life

All: And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

*Hymn 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGARD

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lauren, Nikolas and Nixon Hill

One: The poet, Wendall Berry wrote, "When despair for the world grows in me...I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water." We think of the 23rd Psalm, "He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul." When everything feels hopeless, when we feel as dead as the dry bones in Ezekiel's valley, God calls us to breathe in the holy breath of peace. When we light the candle of Peace, we breathe in the One who restores us.

All: Whatever we face in life, God's spirit of peace will dwell within us.

Prayer of Confession

Sandra McWhirter

What else can you make of this mess, O God? We trust — Lord help us, we have to trust — that you see the mess, that you can imagine something different from this ridiculousness, and more than that: we trust that you consider this particular chaos, this moment of tangled violences and uncertainties and imprecisions within the scheme of your eternal landscape where creative surprises challenge dead ends and prolific healing invigorates broken bones. We trust that you are familiar with messes and we pray that you hold with just as much hope our own messy hearts, broken and strained and make of them what we cannot yet know.

Silence is observed.

Assurance of Pardon

Sandra McWhirter

One: The God we serve is the God of life, the God of hope, the God of new beginnings – even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams. God defies all human messes with the power of life.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Sung Response 92 While We Are Waiting, Come**

WAITING

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "1 While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come. Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

***The Peace of Christ**

Sandra McWhirter

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

TO PROCLAIM AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

Moment with Faith Kids

Rev. Burns

Prayer for Illumination

Sandra McWhirter

Living God, may we hear your words of life and may those very words send us out into the world to call others to life and wholeness. Amen.

Lesson Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Sandra McWhirter

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

"Looking for God in All the Wrong Places: In the Valley of Dry Bones" Rev. Burns

***Hymn 285** Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

BRIDEGROOM

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Burns

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

OFFERING

Offertory Anthem Dry Bones

arr. Becki Slade Malago
And Lynn Shaw Bailey

Ezekiel cried, "Them dry bones!" Now hear the word of the Lord. The foot bone connected to the leg bone. The leg bone connected to the knee bone. The knee bone connected to the hip bone. The hip bone connected to the back bone. The back bone connected to the neck bone. The neck bone connected to the head bone. Them bones, them bones gonna walk around.

Offering Prayer

***Sung Response 75 We Give Thanks unto you**

WE GIVE THANKS UNTO YOU

1 We give thanks un - to you, O God of might,
for your love is nev - er end - ing;
we give thanks un - to you, the God of gods,
for your love is nev - er end - ing.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The lyrics are: '1 We give thanks un - to you, O God of might, for your love is nev - er end - ing; we give thanks un - to you, the God of gods, for your love is nev - er end - ing.'

TO GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE IN CHRIST'S NAME

***Hymn 105 People, Look East**

BESANÇON

***Benediction**

Rev. Burns

One: God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones, the angels in heaven, the child in the womb.

All: **Give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise, in the kindness of your company. Amen.**

*The service concludes with the following postlude.
Please maintain a worshipful silence.*

Postlude Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter
(b. 1939)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns, *Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist.*
Sandra McWhirter, *Liturgist*
The Chancel Choir

FAITH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joy! Children's Christmas Pageant *Sunday, December 17*

Not to be missed, Faith Church's annual Christmas Pageant will be presented during worship.

Sunday Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. – Woodmont Room
December 3, 10, & 17 The Magnificat
Presented by Randal Woodfield

Wednesday Bible Study: 11:00 a.m. – Woodbourne Room, all are welcome. Join us for lively discussion on the upcoming Sunday lesson. No preparation is required.

December 13 – Isaiah 55:1-13

December 20 – John 1:1-18

There is no Bible Study on December 27.

Justice Housing (GEDCO)

Through GEDCO's Justice Housing program for the chronically ill folks, we have been collecting household items for the formally homeless people.

During this season of giving please include these items on your list:

- cleaning products
- gently used blankets
- new queen size sheets, pillowcases,
- towels, shower curtains
- small rugs & mats

Any thing you would need to set up a new apartment. If you have serviceable furniture that you no longer need, please let Susan Minor know. We will be collecting for the next two weeks.

There will be a laundry basket in the hallway outside the sanctuary to collect your donations. Thank you for your generosity and care.

2017 Per Capita Is \$34.15 per Member

To date **members have paid only \$2552.55** of the **\$5293 owed**. If you have not contributed, please do so now if you are able.

Per capita fees are the fees we, Faith Presbyterian, pay for each member of our

church in order to support the mission of the wider church. Just as our civil taxes pay for roads and schools, we are part of a larger church that does a bigger mission than just our individual congregation, and that provides us services as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

2018 Pledge

Pledge cards are in the pew rack and in the narthex. If you have not done so, please return your pledge card today.

Hate Has No Home Here

Baltimore Sun article about signage in Roland Park quoted Scott Bissett. The article is posted on our Facebook page and on the bulletin board in the hall.

Towson Encore Chorale

In case you were unable to attend its Saturday concert, the Towson Encore Chorale (including some members of our own Faith Church choir) will be singing the Christmas concert jointly with the Columbia Encore Chorale at 7:00pm tonight at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center, 7246 Cradle Rock Way S, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

Joys and Concerns may be written before the service in a special book in the narthex. The book will be brought to the minister before the prayer.

Please pray for our homebound members:

Christian Dunyoh
Nancy Stutzer

Mildred Miller
Betty Lou Tampieri

Esmie & Leon Stirling
Dot Weller

Faith Presbyterian Church's Ministry

Pastor: The Rev. Christa Fuller Burns – 410-323-8086
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Parish Associate: The Rev. Doris Cowan -- 410-444-4731
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Parish Associate: The Rev. William R. Millen -- 443-632-6047
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Minister of Music: Dr. Samuel Springer -- 410-483-0808
widor1@yahoo.com

Session

Mike Billings, Clerk

2018	2019	2020
Ellsworth Jackson	Kay Ballard	Mike Billings
Pat Nesbitt	Andy Fuller	Scott Bissett
Judy Sperling	Neil Nemser	Bobby Hall
Krista Wallace	Randy Woodfield	Carl Herber

Deacons

Dawn Shirey, Moderator

2018	2019	2020
Anna Burns	Ken Archie	Chandra Jackson
Gail Poorbaugh	Karen Burd	Susan Minor
Dawn Shirey	Mary Hodgson	
	Robin Nemser	

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5400 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239
www.faithpcbalt.org
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Faith Presbyterian Church

*Christmas
Eve
Communion*

Candlelight Service of
Lessons & Carols
5:30 p.m.

Morning Worship
Chapel
10:45 a.m.
Mary Aikens-Afful, soprano