



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2017

5:30 p.m.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

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

Prelude

Solo

Greeting from *Arias and Barcarolles*

Leonard Bernstein

Randal Woodfield, *baritone*

When a boy is born, the world is born again, and takes its first breath with him.
When a girl is born, the world stops turning round, and keeps a moment's
hushed wonder. Ev'ry time a child is born, for the space of that brief instant, the
world is pure.

Medley

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Away in a Manger

James R. Murray
(1841-1905)

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Mike Shirey

*Hammered Dulcimer
Guitar*

Lynda Aldana

Bassoon

Carol Medley

Isabel Aldana, *piano*

*Call to Worship

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns

**Please stand if you are able.*

One: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. God's Promise is fulfilled!

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

One: Hope gives way to joy, and waiting and prayer to proclamation.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

One: Candles illuminate our story and show the presence of God. Dawn invades the darkness. The Light of the World has come.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

One: This light is a light for all; igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God, who has come alive in the form of the Christ child, Jesus, and who is among us now and always.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

***Carol 133** O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Christmas Prayer

Ever patient God, we've been waiting. Sometimes we've felt like we're waiting in the wrong place and we did not see how you could find us there. But here, tonight, our waiting has been rewarded. We can see the star, we can hear the angels, and we can worship at the manger. Bless us this night so that any hurt may be healed, so that any anxiety may be smoothed, so that any regret may be forgotten. This is the time for singing. This is the time for love. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Shirey Family

The poet, Ann Weems wrote: "What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star....Brilliance in a package, something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans or in the pocket of your being."

We've come tonight for the light, for the shining candles and the smiles on young faces and the brilliance of tears on a neighbor's cheek. But remember the words of the psalmist:

"Give to the Lord, all families of the nation – give to Lord glory and power! Bring gifts! Enter his courtyards! Bow down to the Lord in his holy splendor! Tremble before him, all the earth!"
~ Psalm 96: 7-9

On this Christmas Eve, we tremble at the wonder we remember together: God entered our world in the body of a poor child, born on a dark night in a chilly stable, with only a manger for his bed. God entered the world and took human form to show us how to live in hope, peace, joy and love. When we light the Christ candle, we remember the star above the stable. We celebrate the light coming into the darkness.

All: Glory to God in the highest! We give thanks for the brilliance of stars! We give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ, God with us.

Introduction

Zach Nemser

This, tonight is the meeting place of heaven and earth. Tonight our waiting will end. Tonight God keeps God's promise and sends us the Prince of Peace, the King of Love.

First Lesson Psalm 130

One: I cry out to you from the depths, Lord—

All: My Lord, listen to my voice!

One: Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy!

All: If you kept track of sins, Lord—

One: My Lord, who would stand a chance?

All: But forgiveness is with you—

One: That's why you are honored.

All: I hope, Lord.

One: My whole being hopes,

All: And I wait for God's promise.

One: My whole being waits for my Lord—

All: More than the night watch waits for morning;

One: Yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!

All: Israel, wait for the Lord!

One: Because faithful love is with the Lord;

All: Because great redemption is with our God!

One: He is the one who will redeem Israel

All: From all its sin.

***Carol 104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Introduction

Sarah Marinacci

Even when our waiting seems endless and we see no sign of resolution, we know that God is with us in our waiting and that those who wait are blessed.

Second Lesson

Blessing for Waiting

~ Jan Richardson

Who wait for the night to end, bless them.

Who wait for the night to begin, bless them.

Who wait in the hospital room, who wait in the cell, who wait in prayer, bless them.

Who wait for news, who wait for the phone call, who wait for a word, who wait for a job, a house, a child, bless them.

Who wait for one who will come home, who wait for one who will not come home, bless them.

Who wait with fear, who wait with joy, who wait with peace, who wait with rage, who wait for the end, who wait for the beginning, who wait alone, who wait together, bless them.

Who wait without knowing what they wait for or why, bless them.

Who wait when they should not wait, who wait when they should be in motion, who wait when they need to rise, who wait when they need to set out, bless them.

Who wait for the end of waiting, who wait for the fullness of time, who wait emptied and open and ready, who wait for you, O bless.

Carol Diamond Bright

Lin Marsh

On a night long ago, diamond bright were the heavens still the world with waiting silent for so long. Then at last came that moment when the world changed forever, we see that precious baby and know that we are touched by the angel's song.

Far away in the east on that cold winter evening, mighty kings were waiting, watching from afar, setting out on their journey, who could ever believe it? We see that lowly stable, and know that we are touched by that same bright star.

It's the same old story we tell each year, tales of shepherds and of kings: the same old story we like to hear again and again, the joy that it brings.

In the voice of a child, in the smile of a stranger, in a perfect snowflake or a grain of sand. In the cry of a baby, we remember that story. We see our world with wonder and know that we are touched by the angel's hand.

Introduction

Peyton Lemon

Teenagers are notoriously impatient! They like to have things instantly. Imagine then what it must have been like for Mary to discover that she was pregnant and to be told by an angel no less, that all these wonderful things are going to happen. But first, she will have to wait.

Third Lesson Luke 1:26-38

***Carol 100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Introduction

Stephen Davis

The poet reminds us that God does not fail; our waiting will not be disappointed.

Fourth Lesson

A Thousand Mornings

~ Mary Oliver

All Night my heart makes its way however it can over the rough ground of uncertainties, but only until night meets and then is overwhelmed by morning, the light deepening, the wind easing and just waiting, as I too wait (and when have I ever been disappointed?) for redbird to sing.

Carol Tomorrow Will Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner

Introduction

Karen & Travis Burd

Children are often the ones who hear what others don't. They know how to listen to the birds.

Fifth Lesson A Children's Story

The Message of the Birds

~ Kate Westerlund

***Carol 121** O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Introduction**Max Colmers**

Suddenly, in the dark of night, just when we'd given up hope, our waiting is over and God's promise is fulfilled.

Sixth Lesson Luke 2: 1-7

Carol *La Jornada*
(The Journey)

Venezuelan Traditional Carol
Arr. Ben Parry

*Din, din, din, now is the time to go, hurry to Bethlehem,
going on our journey through Nazareth.*

See the Virgin Mary, modest and gentle what a wond'rous marvel from our God on high. We can see sweet Mary, sitting on a donkey; Joseph is her guide leading on their way. Weary is that journey through the dark'ning skies, but their God will lead them safely through the night. Where can we find shelter? Help us, heavenly Father. Soon they find a cow shed, so their journey ends.

Introduction**Theodore Wallace**

There was a man in Jerusalem who knew how to wait. His name was Simeon, and he was counting on being able to see the Messiah before he died.

Seventh Lesson Luke 2: 25-32

***Carol 136** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Welcome & Announcements**Rev. Burns****OFFERING**

Offering Anthem *Il est né, le divin Enfant*
(He is born, the divine Child)

Traditional French Carol

Chorus
He is born, the Heav'nly Child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding
Let all sing His nativity.

'Tis four thousand years and more,
Prophets have foretold His coming,
Have we waited this happy hour.

Ah, how lovely, Ah, how fair,
What perfection is His graces,
Child divine, so gentle there.

In a stable lodged is He,
Straw is all He has for cradle.
Oh how great humility!

Jesus Lord, O King with power,
Though a little babe You come here,
Rule o'er us from this glad hour.

Sung Response 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Verses 1 & 3

IN DULCI JUBILO

Offering Prayer

One: Astonishing God, whose heart is always about pleasing us, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live as your children, surrounded by your love, enlightened by your spirit, open to the joy of your presence. Bless these gifts that they may reach and touch those who hunger, who hurt, who seek new hope. We pray for a world transformed. We pray for peace, for liberty to the oppressed and gladness to those weary with grief. In the name of the One who came so that we might know your love.

All: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Rev. Burns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

All: They began with creation, when your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when your word brought forth light on the face of the earth.

One: Your gifts continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom you blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow,

All: And like Sarah and Abraham, whom you blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.

One: In the desert, you gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom you led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

All: At last, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the bearer of light, full of grace and truth, revealing your glory on earth. We thank you, O God that you have given to us Jesus Christ. Help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility; as we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to receive your love and grace. May we then take the love we know around this table out into a dark and waiting world. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion *(by intinction)* Cubed bread is gluten-free. Please come to the front of the sanctuary via the center aisle, take the bread and dip it into the chalice, then partake and return to your seat by way of a side aisle.

Prayer

Rev. Burns

Lighting of the Candles

Carol 122 (*remain seated for the musical introduction*)

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

musical introduction

**all will stand and sing*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

musical interlude

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

musical interlude

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King,
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

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

*Benediction

One: Now, O God, may your servants go in peace as you promised, for our eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all to see, a light to enlighten the nations.

All: **Amen.**

***Carol 119** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

The service concludes with the following postlude.

Postlude *Postlude sur un Noël*

Denis Bédard
(b. 1950)

LEADING WORSHIP

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns, *Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music & Organist*
The Chancel Choir

Musicians

Lynda Aldana, *bassoon*
Mike Shirey, *hammered dulcimer & guitar*
The dulcimer belonged to Frank Robey

Readers

Karen & Travis Burd
Sarah Marinacci
Max Colmers
Stephen Davis
Peyton Lemon
Zach Nemser
Theodore Wallace

Faith Presbyterian Church's Ministry

Pastor: The Rev. Christa Fuller Burns -- 410-323-8086
shalomcfb@gmail.com

Parish Associate: The Rev. Doris Cowan -- 410-444-4731
dw.cowan@verizon.net

Parish Associate: The Rev. William R. Millen -- 443-632-6047
bill.millen@comcast.net

Minister of Music: Dr. Samuel Springer -- 410-483-0808
widor1@yahoo.com

Faith in the City

Seeking • Standing • Serving

Contact us for more information about Faith's mission
in the City of Baltimore and around the world.

Thank You!

To everyone who donated to the Christmas Flowers, the DEAR Fund and Bread Fund.

DEAR Fund

The DEAR Fund was created by Faith's Board of Deacons to provide financial assistance to any Faith Church member in an emergency situation. A Faith member may contact a committee member, the pastor, or the parish administrator to request assistance. An application is filled out confidentially and the committee lets the member know if the request is approved and the amount. Please consider making a contribution to this important fund; check DEAR Fund on pew envelope or in the memo of your check.

The Bread Fund

The Bread fund is used to provide food oriented support for our neighbors in need. This fund is used to provide Thanksgiving baskets to needy families as well as to provide meal items for events at Harford House when needed. Please consider making a contribution to this important fund; check Bread Fund on pew envelope or in the memo of your check.

Music Fund

The donations to the Music Fund are used to support Faith's music ministry including special musicians, and purchasing of anthems and choral music. Please consider making a contribution to this important fund; note Music Fund in the memo of your check.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5400 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21239-2998

410-435-4330

www.faithpcbalt.org

seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org



Christmas Flowers

Beverly Baker Kay Ballard	In Memory of James D. Baker, Sr. In Memory of Loved Ones; Her Parents, Lawrence & Marie Frey
The Bernard Family	In Memory of Eugen White Nickerson III; Martha Key & Dick Bernard
Paula Burger	In Memory of Anna & Ernest Phillips; Fannie & Willard Burger
Christa Burns	In Memory of Stan Burns; Our Grandparents; Nick Marinacci
John & Debra Colmers	In Memory of Richard Paul; Rosmarie & Rudolf Colmers In Celebration of Jean Longenbach
Phyllis Compton	In Memory of William Compton In Celebration of Frances Compton
Susan Dockman Mercy Dunyoh	In Memory of Loved Ones In Memory of Carolyn Dunyoh
The Herber Family	In Memory of James Herber
Susan & Lew Johnston	In Memory of Floyd & Polly; Janet
David & Karen Meyers	In Memory of Sylvia Guerra; Esther & Roy Meyers
Linda Moultrie-Frank	In Celebration of Paul & Linda Frank
Robin & Neil Nemser	In Celebration of Owen, Wyatt, and Josie
Pat & Jack Nesbitt	In Celebration of Our Family
Gail Poorbaugh	In Memory of William E. Poorbaugh II
Sharon Reinhard	In Memory of Carolyn Witzke
The Seavers-Reale Family	In Memory of Ed "Grammpy" Cookingham; Helen Cingolani
The Shirey Family	In Memory of Emma & Ray Sturmer; Roselle Shearer
Ron & Judy Sperling	In Memory of Loved Ones
Ron & Judy Sperling	In Celebration of Children & Grandchildren
Audrey & John Trapp	In Memory of Audrey Mae Cousart
Theodore Wallace	In Memory of Alvin Wallace; Pearl, Doris, & Marlene
Janice & Maceo Williams	In Memory of Parents: Dr. H. Maceo Willams and Harry & Elizabeth
Randal Woodfield	In Memory of George Jenkins

Music Fund

Kay Ballard	In Memory of Loved Ones
The Bernard Family	In Memory of David Riley
Paula Burger	In Celebration of Samuel Springer
John & Debra Colmers	In Memory of George Jenkins
Phyllis Compton	In Celebration of The Choir
Doris Cowan	In Celebration of Randy Woodfield; Samuel & the Choir
David & Karen Meyers	In Celebration of Samuel Springer
Pat & Jack Nesbitt	In Celebration of Faith Church Musicians
Gail Poorbaugh	In Memory of Warren E. Chandler
The Pope Family	In Memory of Mildred H. Humphrey
Marshalyne Seavers	
Janice & Maceo Williams	In Memory of Step Mother Leatha Grimes
Randal Woodfield	In Memory of George Jenkins





The Bread Fund

Beverly Baker	In Memory of Carolyn Miller
Kay Ballard	In Memory of Loved Ones
The Bernard Family	In Celebration of Mary Nickerson; Jim Kautz
Jackie Billings	In Celebration of My Grandchildren, Austin & Savannah
Rev. Dr. Donald Boardman & Carol Paige Preston Boardman	In Memory of Charles & Eveland Preston; Rev. Richard Randall Preston; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Boardman, Sr.; Mr. Harry Boardman, Jr.
Doris Cowan	In Memory of Ward Cowan; Loved Ones
David & Karen Meyers	In Memory of Grama Getman In Celebration of Pat Thomson
Pat & Jack Nesbitt	In Celebration of Our Faith Family
Gail Poorbaugh	In Celebration of Bettie Chandler
Marshalyne Seavers	
Norma & Kurt Shirey	In Celebration of Mike & Dawn Shirey's 25 Anniversary
The Shirey Family	In Memory of Richard Shirey; Marge & Forrest Leventy
Pat Thomson	In Memory of the Thomson Family
Mozella Williams	
Janice & Maceo Williams	In Memory of Sister Debois Taylor



The Dear Fund

Kay Ballard	In Memory of Loved Ones
The Bernard Family	In Memory of Haley Tierney
Doris Cowan	In Celebration of Her Children & Grandchildren; Her Faith Family
Susan & Lew Johnston	
David & Karen Meyers	In Memory of Albert & Elvira Carle In Celebration of Judy & Ron Sperling
The Pope Family	In Celebration of Family & Friends
Sharon Reinhard	In Memory of Carolyn Witzke
Nancy Stutzer	In Memory of Arthur Stutzer, Jr.; David C. Stutzer
Audrey & John Trapp	In Memory of Our Loved Ones In Celebration of Our Families
Sharon Will	In Memory of Edwin Will
Mozella Williams	
Janice & Maceo Williams	In Memory of Brother McArthur Williams