



No Time Like the Present

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 3, 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

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Mary Barrett Speers

Prelude Wachet auf! BWV 645
(Sleepers Awake!)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

☪ **Call to Worship**

The Burd Family

Lighting the Advent Wreath

One: This Advent, we pray each week for each of the four corners of the earth.
Let us face north.

All persons face north.

O Spirit, O mighty wind at creation,
O Life of God within all creatures,
O breath of the earth, O Sustainer,
We pray for the north.

We pray for the polar icecaps, for the polar bears; for the whales and puffins; for the fishes and crustaceans; for the tender, tenacious plants of the tundra; we pray for your peoples living there.

All: O Wisdom coming among us from on high: help us to restore your creation.

All persons return facing center. A leader lights one candle

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

☪ **Hymn 93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Prayer of Confession

Karen Burd

God of Abundant Life, as the last leaves fall from the trees and the night falls earlier each day, we open our hearts to you. We droop and fade, we are brittle where we used to be supple, and lie cold on the ground where once we flourished in joy. Forgive us for allowing our hearts to wither with the leaves: forgive us for all the ways we've brought winter to the hearts of others. Loving God who gave us birth, remind us that you make all things new, help us to cherish the hope that even now is growing, working secretly within us in the darkness, to bring forth the joyous, new, and everlasting life promised us in Christ Jesus our Lord...

Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Grace

☪ **Sung Response 113** *refrain*

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

☪ **The Peace of Christ**

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

Judy Sperling

♫ **Sung Prayer for Illumination 92** *verse 1*

WAITING

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come;
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel: while we are waiting, come!**

Lesson Luke 3:1-6

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One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

“No Time Like the Present”

Rev. Speers

♫ **Hymn 104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

OFFERING

Offertory Come, Come Emmanuel

Joel Raney
(b. 1956)

Come, come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appears. Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee O Israel. Bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

♫ **Sung Response 143** *verse 4, adapted*

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to the glorious Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ who is to come!**

♫ **Dedication of Self and Substance**

Holy One, you who are complete in yourself and the source of all power and grace, place within us the spirit of your holy child Jesus, fill us with such love and awe and delight that we become a blessing to everyone we meet, and send into your world through us the abundant life we have through the one who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving with Intercessions

...who forever sings to the glory of your name

Sanctus 597

SANNANINA

The prayer continues...

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of Bread and Pouring of Wine

Communion (by intinction)

So that all may be welcome at the table of Christ, please know that gluten-free, cubed bread is available on each tray, and that all "wine" is unfermented grape juice. 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.

Sung Response 535

BLESS THE LORD

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all God's benefits.

Prayer

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ, and pledge ourselves to serve you and the world you so love, even as in Christ you have served us.

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

🕯 **Hymn 496** Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed

ARFON

🕯 **Benediction**

*The service concludes with the postlude.
Please be mindful that all music in the service is an offering to God.*

Postlude Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter
(b. 1939)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Mary Barrett Speers, *Interim Pastor*
Samuel Springer, *Organist*
Karen Burd, *Liturgist*
The Chancel Choir

Karen & Travis, Carly and Campbell Burd,
Candle Lighters

Faith Presbyterian Church's Ministry

Interim Pastor: Rev. Mary Barrett Speers – 410-435-4330
seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org

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

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

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

First Sunday of Advent

Today we welcome our interim pastor, **Rev. Mary Barrett Speers** to the pulpit. We will all get a chance to meet and talk with her at Advent Fest. Don't miss it!

Greening of the Sanctuary *Saturday, December 8, 9:00 till noon.*

Please come, there is something to for everyone to do.

Stewardship

Remember to return your pledge cards! Please prayerfully consider what you can provide financially and ensure that Faith Endures.

Star Light, Star Bright Christmas Pageant *December 16 during worship.*

Sunday Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. – Woodmont Room

Immigration

December 9 – Esperanza Center led by **Yaneldis Boullon Delgado**

December 16 – Daily Experience of Working with Refugees led by **Elaine Crawford.**

An Advent of Kindness Festival *Today following worship*

Faith's annual Advent Festival will be held in the Fellowship Hall following worship. As always, the Deacons will be presenting a bountiful table of handmade gifts, so come prepared with your Christmas gift list! A wonderful homemade lunch will be served followed by Christmas desserts made by members of the congregation. Please join us as we begin this beautiful season of Advent where we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Rosemary Returns to Faith

Rosemary Miller, our child caretaker, plans to returns to her duties today. Please stop by the nursery and welcome her back.

Towson Encore Chorale Holiday Concerts

Under the baton of **Stephen Harouff**, several of Faith's musicians sing with the Towson Encore Chorale. Please join us for one or all of these free holiday concerts.

Today, 7:00 p.m. at Owen Brown Interfaith Center in Columbia, MD

December 9, 4:00 p.m. at Towson Presbyterian Church in Towson

December 26, 6:00 p.m. at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall in D.C.

Habitat for Humanity Updates

On Saturday, January 12th, 2019 there will be a Faith Home Blessing at 747 McCabe Avenue. This is very similar to a Home Dedication, but instead will be specific to just our faith coalition supporters. For now, it would be great if you'd mark your calendars for this truly heartwarming event. The start time will be around noon. More details to come on this. More build dates for Jan., Feb., and March will be out in early December. Contact Natalie Wallace

Shredding by Andre

Andre Slacum is a Faith Church member who volunteers here at Faith; one of his favorite activities is shredding. He provides a service to Faith Church by offering his shredding services here at the church. Bring your **sensitive documents** to church and place them in the box in the workroom marked "Shredding for Andre" or give them to Robin Nemser. You will be helping Andre, and he will return the favor to you. Start purging those file drawers!

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:

Betty Bunce

Esmie & Leon Stirling

Nan Pohl

Nancy Stutzer

June Rowe

Betty Lou Tampieri

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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