

Welcome Home
Faith Presbyterian Church



Icon, oil on wood
Virginia Weiringa, American

All Shall Be Well

September 8, 2019

*Welcome to Faith Church; we are glad you are here.
Childcare for infants and preschoolers is provided all morning in the nursery,
an usher will escort you and your child to the nursery.*

All Shall Be Well

*A joyful celebration in the round, in the style of the Iona Community,
inspired by the wonder of Creation and the writings of Julian of Norwich*

Part I. A Small Thing Like a Hazelnut

from the first Showing

As you come in, please take a hazelnut from the dish

Gathering Music

Today, we use this time to learn the songs that we'll be singing.

✧ Call to Worship

One: Loving God, you call us to marvel:

All: **Reveal in us your wonder and joy.**

Hymn God of Great and God of Small

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,
3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,
God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,
God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

Three Readings

silent pondering, brought to a close with...

Lesson Luke 12:22-27

please remain seated

A small thing like a ha-zel-nut lay in my o-pen hand, and

God dis-closed three truths to me that I might un-der-stand: God

made it, God loves it, and God will al-ways care; God

made it, God loves it, and God will al-ways care for it.

2.

I marveled that this little thing reveals how God can be
 our maker, lover, keeper, now—and for eternity!
 God made you, God loves you, and God will always care;
 God made you, God loves you, and God will always care for you.

3.

Until my heart is one with God, its aching will not cease,
 and so I rest, held close by God, these three truths bringing peace:
 God made me, God loves me, and God will always care;
 God made me, God loves me, and God will always care for me.

✧ Prayer of Confession

One: Please rise in body or in spirit. God-with-us, we pray for your creation...

moment of silence

One: Comforting God, you call us to gentleness:

All: Reveal in us your peace and faith.

One: Healing God, you call us to wholeness.

All: Reveal in us your justice and truth. Forgive us when we misuse rather than marvel, when we consume without thought.

One: God-with-us, we pray for the world.

All: Forgive us when we do not recognize the neighbor who lives beyond us; when we ignore the neighbor who lives beside us; when we want power over another rather than power with them.

One: God-with-us, we pray for those who suffer, for those who have life-limiting conditions, for those who are near death.

All: Grant each of us a revelation of your divine love to build community and make your broken world whole.

One: Help us to care for the earth, our mother, with a mother's care. Help us to care for our sisters and brothers with whom we share this, our only home.

All: We pray in the name of Jesus, present at creation, who cares for us still. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Part II. All Shall Be Well

from the thirteenth Showing

Reading

Decision

Hymn Don't Be Afraid

ASSURANCE

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear;
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

Affirmation

congregation leads the leader...

All: We believe in God:

One: A God of love and rainbows who creates all through love; who promises to be with creation in sun and rain, in joy and pain; who blesses us with wonder in each moment, and joy in every step.

All: We believe in God:

One: A God who was born in Jesus; who, in solidarity, suffers with us; who knew despair and loss and betrayal; who was killed for standing up for what is right; who showed that love is stronger than death.

All: We believe in God:

One: A God who is gifted to us in the Spirit; who enfolds and upholds us; who inspires us with the vision of how things should be; who challenges us to live honestly; who transforms our pain into new life; who empowers us with new beginnings.

All: We believe in God:

One A God of love and laughter, who calls us to live today in justice and joy, in the knowledge that

All: All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen.

Part III. the Motherhood of God *from the fourteenth Showing*

Lesson Isaiah 49:13-16a

Reading

Hymn Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

NORWICH



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - ery
me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flower, un - til I know.

Part IV. Love Is God's Meaning *from the sixteenth Showing*

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Prayers for the Change of Season

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother 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.

Offertory On Eagles' Wings

Michael Joncas

Mike Shirey will sing the verses; congregation will respond with the refrain

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

refrain

**And he will raise you up on eagles' wings; bear you on the breath of dawn;
make you to shine like the sun; and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings, your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.

refrain

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

refrain

For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

refrain

✧ Dedication of Self and Substance

One: In gratitude for all God's gifts, and in dedication of self and substance to God, let us rise now in body or in spirit, and say together Julian's radiant conclusion:

All: So, it was that I learned that love was our Lord's meaning. And I saw for certain, both here and elsewhere, that even before ever making us, God loved us; and that the love of God has never faltered, nor ever shall. In this love all the works of God have been done, and in this love God has made all things beneficial to us, and in this love our life is everlasting. Our beginning was when we were made, but the love in which God made us never had a beginning. It is in the love of God that we have our beginning. All this we shall see in God forever. May Jesus grant this. Amen.

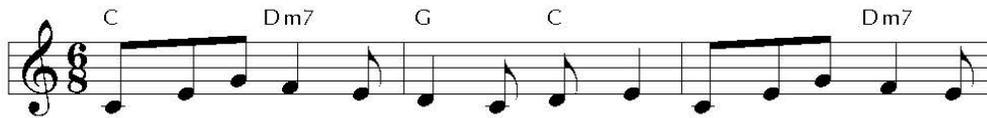
✧ Charge to the Congregation

One Take your hazelnut, then, and carry it with you on your journey. Put it somewhere you can see it or carry it in your pocket where you can touch it. Remember always, you, all your troubles, and all your happinesses, and those of the whole world, are cradled in the palm of God's hand, and all shall be well.

All: All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

Hymn O Christ, Surround Me

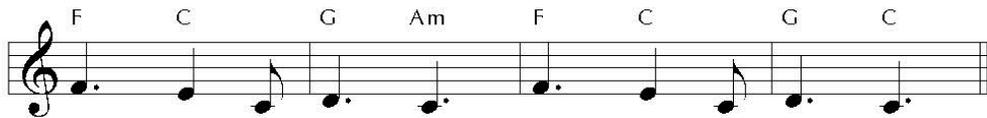
GREEN TYLER



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Blessing

May the God who holds us tenderly in the palm of his/her hand, comfort us. May the God who feeds us tenderly, direct us. May the God who loves us tenderly, bless us, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.

✧ The Peace of Christ

Please exchange the Peace of Christ and invite everyone to lunch.

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Mary B. Speers, *Interim Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music*
Mike Shirey, *Guitar*
Gabriella Anthony, *Liturgist*
Veronica Herber, *Liturgist*
Payton Lemon, *Liturgist*

Notes on today's Order of Worship

The image of Julian on the front cover was created in the tradition of icons and painted with layers of paint and prayer by Virginia Wieringa of Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is reproduced for today's service with the kind permission of the artist, who sends her blessings with it and invites you to visit her website virginiawieringa.com

Parts I and II are adapted from a service for St Julian's Day (May 8) by Zam Walker of the Iona Community, in *Fire and Bread, Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*, Ruth Burgess, ed. Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2015.

Parts III and IV are assembled by Mary Speers for today's service.

Hymns and songs not in our hymnal are from *The Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition (CH4), John Bell, ed. Norwich, UK: Canterbury Press, 2008, or the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, op. cit.

Today's offertory was arranged by Jack Schrader and written by Br. Michael Joncas, a prolific liturgical composer who, like Julian, is a survivor of life-threatening illness. His 2017 autobiography, *On Eagle's Wings: A Journey through Illness toward Healing*, remains in print.

Julian of Norwich 1342-1416

In 1373, a woman 'aged 30 and a half' was gravely ill. She and her family thought she was dying. But on the eighth day of May of that year, she had a series of visions, which she referred to as her 'showings' and which later became known as the *Revelations of Divine Love*.

She became an anchoress, living in a cell attached to a tiny church in Norwich, England, from whence she gave spiritual direction and lived a life of prayer. Julian's near-death experience made her value the wonder and joy in each moment and the gift of life that God gives us.

Julian is beloved because her writings shine through with compassion and love. Her message speaks beyond the Middle Ages and is as fresh today as when it was written.

The church has been rebuilt at least twice, once in the eighteenth century and again after the Second World War. When Mary Speers made a pilgrimage to Norwich in 2016 to see it, she found, just inside the sanctuary, a dish of hazelnuts with a little sign: *Please take one...*

FAITH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacons' Meeting *Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Woodbourne Room*

Session Meeting *Monday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Woodbourne Room*

Adult Forum

September 15 – Experiences from Big Tent, led by **Audrey Trapp**

September 22 – Faith Church in Partnership with Walter P. Carter School, led by **Jovan Custis**, Community School Director

September 29 - October 21 – *Five Stories that Define Us* from the book of Genesis, led by **Rev. Jack Hodges**

Fall Habitat Workdays

The Workdays are in! If you would like to get dirty, have fun, and make a difference, volunteer! The limit is 10 people per day. Upcoming dates are September 21; October 5, 19, 26. Call or text Natalie Wallace.

Book Club

We will be reading *Educated* by Tara Westover. Westover was born in Idaho. Her fanatic father was dubious of public education, believing it a means for the government to brainwash its gullible citizens. After one brother extricated himself from their world, he helped her escape. She accomplished the seemingly impossible by pursuing education to its highest level. Enjoy her incredible journey and join us, September 23, at the Nesbitts' to discuss this amazing story.

CARES Pantry

The Pantry is full of empty shelves. We need **canned veggies, spaghetti sauce, and cereal**. Food donations may be placed in the baskets outside the sanctuary doors. Please continue to donate to the Bread Fund; your gifts are used to purchase fresh produce. Thank you for your generosity.

Yoga at Faith *Wednesdays 2:00-3:15 in the Chapel*

Gentle Yoga class is led by certified instructor, **Leanora Eubanks**. All are welcome, experienced or new to yoga. \$40/4 sessions or \$12.50/drop in. For more information call the church office 410-435-4330.

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!

Margaret Turner's Memorial Service

Long-time member Marge Turner's service will be on September 21 at 11:00 a.m. If you would like help with the reception, contact **Robin Nemser** or call the office.

Peacemaking

During September, the Deacons will present Minute for Mission with the theme Blessed Are the Peacemakers. October 6th is World Communion Sunday and we will accept the special offering for the 2019 Peace & Global Witness.

Please pray for our homebound members:

Betty Bunce

Nan Pohl

Nancy Stutzer

Please Pray for Our PNC

Karen Burd

Paula Burger

Neil Nemser

Pat Nesbitt

Mike Shirey

Judy Sperling

Natalie Wallace

Mozella Williams

Faith Presbyterian Church's Ministry

Rev. Mary Barrett Speers, *Interim Pastor*
maryfaithchurchbalt@gmail.com - 443-893-3717

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

Rev. Bill Millen, *Parish Associate*
bill.millen@comcast.net - 443-632-6047

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

Diane Borgatti, *Parish Administrator*
Rosemary Miller, *Child Caretaker*

Session

Mike Billings, Clerk

2020	2021	2022
Mike Billings	Ellsworth Jackson	Paula Burger
Vivian Slacum	Karen Meyers	Andy Fuller
Bobby Hall	Mike Shirey	Neil Nemser
Carl Herber	Audrey Trapp	Charleen Witherspoon

Deacons

Susan Minor, Moderator

2020	2021	2022
Chandra Jackson	Leanora Eubanks	Lauren Hill
Ileana Martinez-Castillo	Gail Poorbaugh	Mary Hodgson
Susan Minor	Natalie Wallace	Robin Nemser
Mozella Williams	Sharon Will	Hannah Pope

Committee

- Christian Education
- Faith Forward
- Fiscal Planning
- Nominating
- Human Resources
- PNC
- Plant & Property
- Social & Environmental
- Justice (SEJ)
- Stewardship
- Worship & Arts

Chair

- Robin Nemser
- Chris Pope
- Ellsworth Jackson
- Paula Burger
- Karen Burd
- Mike Shirey
- Mike Shirey
- Karen Meyers
- Carl Herber
- Judy Sperling
- Marilyn Valentine

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Faith Church Is

A multicultural, multiracial congregation, with people of every age, race, economic status, gender or sexual orientation, compelled by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the tradition of reformed theology, and our experiences of God's grace. We boldly and publicly proclaim:

- We gather together to Worship.
- We are committed to a circle that is wide and unbroken and declare that all who desire to join with us will be welcomed and respected.
- We wrestle with and nurture the tensions that arise from our differences, and we celebrate our shared faith.
- We are a learning community.
- We support each other in our struggles to learn and practice what it means to live the Gospel in our individual and collective lives.
- We are open to the moving of the Spirit and open to change in ourselves and in our community.
- We see service to the greater community and to the world as an essential part of the life of the church.

Seeking - As a community, we recognize that reading, hearing, and preaching of the Word and confessing is central to our quest to understand what it means to live out our faith. We see doubt and honest questions as part of the process of spiritual growth.

Standing - We try to reflect Christ's example of perfect love by working for peace and justice and by tearing down barriers, erected by society and the church, that exclude rather than include. We struggle to see each other as God sees every human being: equally loved and valued. We strive in our church, in our homes, and in our community to care for our environment.

Serving - We see service to the community and to the world as an essential part of the life of the church. Our service commitments and mission activities range from local work with food pantries and Habitat projects to an international partnership with churches in Cuba.

Missions at home and abroad provide rewarding opportunities for Faith members to live Christ's teachings, from our back door to the heart of our country and the world beyond our geographic boundaries.

