

God's Green Earth

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, September 5, 2021



Mixed Media
Laura Curtis, (b. 1996) member of Faith Church

Welcome to worship at Faith Presbyterian Church! We are glad you are joining us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubt, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you. As we begin our time together, take a few deep breaths and settle in, to make the transition from getting here to being here, and to prepare your mind and body for worship.

Faith Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

Joys and Concerns

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude Jesus Christ with Us Above

Sigfried Karg-Elert
(1877-1933)

**Please rise in body or in spirit; unison parts are in bold.*

*Call to Worship

Kurtis Moore

When the paths we trod are dusty and worn,
the wind of the Spirit revives us.
When our souls are dry and parched,
new life springs forth at God's word.
Let all who are weary come! Let all who are thirsty come!
Let us worship God together.

*Hymn 283 *Come, O Holy Spirit, Come*

WA EMIMIMO

sung 3 times

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, your word gave us life and your works surround us. Yet we forget your commandments, hoarding and exploiting the abundance of creation. Forgive our constant striving for more, and help us be satisfied with enough. By sharing what we have, may we learn to trust in your constant renewal of creation. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

Assurance of Grace

Gloria 591 *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

HALLE, HALLE

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A Moment with Faith Kids

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Reading Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and

will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

This is the word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

God's Green Earth: Recreation and Resilience

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn 507** *Come to the Table of Grace*

TABLE OF GRACE

Affirmation *from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Minute for Mission Habitat for Humanity

Natalie Wallace

Invitation to the Offering

If you wish to contribute online, please scan the QR code with your mobile device to be directed to Faith's online giving site.



Offertory

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The prayer continues, concluding with

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be this day, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of Communion

If you are in the sanctuary, please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and cup, and return by the outside aisle. Gluten free, dairy free bread is available in a dish on each plate. If you are at home, when the bread is broken, please break the bread. When the cup is poured, please pour it or touch the cup if you've already filled it. We give thanks that the Spirit is present wherever we are, knitting us together as the body of Christ in the world.

Prayer after Communion

Most loving God, we thank you for calling us to this table to share in your feast and to taste the goodness you have promised us. Having broken bread together, we offer you ourselves: our hands, our hearts, our lives for your service. By the power of your Spirit, send us out to stand with you in the world, to mend, to teach, to share, to heal, to help, and to love. In the name of Christ, our friend and brother we pray, Amen.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn 79** *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

TEMPLE OF PEACE

Charge & Benediction

Postlude Festal Finale

Henry Coleman
(1888-1965)

Passing of the Peace

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor
Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist
Kurtis Moore, Liturgist
Andy Fuller, Audio and Camera
Dawn Shirey, PowerPoint operator

Please pray for:

Bobby Hall had shoulder surgery on Thursday.
June Rowe at home after a brief stay in the hospital for tests.
Sandra McWhirter recovering after heart surgery.
Kay Ballard as she has tests and makes decisions for treatment.

Continued prayers:

Nan Pohl
John Reale and the Seavers-Reale family
Ann Scheck
Faith's homebound members

Announcements

Kickoff Sunday *September 12, 10:45*

Join us to celebrate the start of a new program year! We will gather outside for worship. The duo *6 Feet Apart*, Mike Shirey and Tracie Stofko will sing and lead the hymns. Following worship, we will share fellowship and enjoy a picnic together. BYOL (bring your own lunch.)

Adult Forum *September 9:15*

19th Faith Church's history, led by Paula Burger
26th *In The-Loop Ministry Group* from the Presbytery of Baltimore's research around the racial history of their congregations and efforts for racial justice.

Family Sunday School *September 19 – October 24, 9:15*

Pre-K-1st grade will meet in classroom outside of the sanctuary. 2nd-5th will meet on third floor. Parents, grandparents, and others are invited to a small group in the Tower Room to connect and reflect about raising children in a family of faith.

Fall Care Day *September 11, 9:00 – noon*

Care Days are when we have the privilege of lending our collective assistance to the stalwart Thursday crew to get the grounds and inside of our property in tip-top shape. See Mike Shirey if you have any questions.

Wednesday Bible Study *11:00 a.m. in Woodbourne Room & Zoom*

Starting September 8th. Join Cat every Wednesday to reflect on the Sunday's lectionary passage. All are welcome!