

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy
Sunday, December 11, 2022



A Service of Lessons and Carols

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

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

***Call to Worship ¹**

Bobby Hall

You who are unsure of what you believe, or whether you believe at all: listen!

Our ears are open, help us hear.

You who are weighed down by thoughts of failure, or feelings of grief: listen!

Our minds are open, help us believe.

You whose hearts are heavy, whose problems seem insurmountable: listen!

Our hearts are open, help us find grace.

Soon God's salvation will come; God's glory will be revealed.

Together we watch, together we wait; Emmanuel, come quickly!

¹ excerpted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/advent-prayer-maranatha-come-lord-jesus.html>

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of unending mercy, we are people of abundance, and yet we can only think of what we lack: what we will get instead of what we might give; we take your gift of love in Christ for granted. Help us have hope in miracles, and give us a sense of wonder at the goodness of creation, that we might share love with a lonely world, and live our faith with generosity and joy. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

Kyrie 90 *Wait for the Lord*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Assurance of Grace

*Gloria 109 *Blest Be the God of Israel*

MERLE'S TUNE

1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;

who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;

God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A Moment with Faith Kids

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Watkins Family, Maureen Craig, Mary Hodgson

Creative Prayer for Advent

***Hymn 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

verses 1, 4 & 6

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson 1 Isaiah 11:1-10 – A Vision of the Reign of God

Bonnie Sorak, IPC

In the reign of God, strangers become friends and all places know peace.

We will work for peace in our lives and in our world.

***Carol 129** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Lesson 2 Luke 1:26-38 – The Annunciation

Palestine Boone, Harford House

When angels appear, they remind us: "Do not be afraid!"

We will face our fears with courage and faith.

Anthem *The Angel Gabriel*

arr. Richard Shephard

Lesson 3 Matthew 1:18-23 - The Angel and Joseph

Jaileel Tomlin, WPC

God often shows up in ways we do not expect.

May we have faith strong enough to trust in dreams and visions.

***Hymn 145** *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

Lesson 4 Luke 2:1-7 - The birth of Jesus

Rachel Neill, GEDCO CARES

He came not with riches or power, but with humility, seeking shelter against the cold.

We will serve him with humility, amongst those who are in need.

Anthem *Whence is Thy Goodly Fragrance Flowing*

arr. Richard Shephard

Lesson 5 Luke 2:8-14 - The Heavens Rejoice

Pat Jones, ISOC

As the child was wrapped in bands of cloth, so we are wrapped in God's love.

With grateful hearts, we will share that love with all.

***Carol 113** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Lesson 6

Remembering that It Happened Once
A Christmas Poem by Wendell Berry

Prayer

Holy God, in these days of worry and wonder, we have heard the story of our faith: the prophets' words of promise, the mystery and miracle of your arrival in our world. Make us ready to welcome you anew. We pray for peace and goodwill among all people, comfort for the suffering, healing for the sick, and liberation for the oppressed, giving thanks for the One who is making it so – in whose name we pray, amen.

*Carol 105 *People, Look East*

BESANÇON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Minute for Mission

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 *Come unto Me from "Messiah"*

Cimone Austin, soprano

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Vom Himmel Hoch "From Heaven on High"*

Garth Edmundson
(1892-1971)

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor

Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Cimone Austin, Soloist

Bobby Hall, Liturgist

The Watkins Family, Maureen Craig, Mary Hodgson, Candlelighters

Dawn Shirey, Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint

Andy Fuller, Audio/Camera

Our Readers today represent many of our church's community partners, in the tradition of the King's College service of Lessons and Carols, which is led in part by community members. They are:

Bonnie Sorak, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake: Bonnie is the Interim Director of the One Water Partnership, which brings faith communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed together to care for local waterways. It is part of IPC's work to build a movement of faith communities working together to restore, honor, and protect the Chesapeake Bay. IPC helped facilitate our partnership with Blue Water Baltimore to plant trees and create a new green space on our property. <https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org>

Palestine Boone, GEDCO: Palestine is the Harford House Program Associate for GEDCO. Harford House serves men who recently experienced homelessness by providing permanent housing with supportive services. <https://gedco.org/harford-house/>

Jaileel Tomlin, student, Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School: Jaileel is a 6th grade student at our partner school, Walter P. Carter. WPC is a 21st century Baltimore City neighborhood school serving 337 students from pre-K-8th grade. With the leadership of Principal Brandon Pinkney, WPC is a learning community developing leaders, collaborators, and innovators prepared to explore the world. <https://sites.google.com/bcps.k12.md.us/wwpcem/home?authuser=0>

Rachel Neill, GEDCO: Rachel retired in October after serving 16 years as the Director of the GEDCO CARES Pantry. CARES provides food and emergency financial assistance to people in crisis with the intention of moving clients towards self-sufficiency. <https://gedco.org/what-we-do/community-services/>

Pat Jones, Immigration Outreach Service Center: Pat is the Executive Director of the IOSC, which provides a wide range of referral assistance in matters relating to adjustment of status, citizenship, political asylum, social services, education, employment, housing, financial assistance, and health care. They also offer tutoring, ESL, and other support for the immigrant community in Baltimore.

We also are grateful for the musical gifts shared by **Josanne Francis**, director of Steel on Wheels. Steel on Wheels provides the full steelpan experience without the stress or burden of buying instruments, offering music classes and workshops in schools and communities across Maryland and the mid-Atlantic.

Today's soloist, **Cimone Austin**, is part of the Urban Choral Arts Society The UCAS is a 501c3 organization dedicated to improving the achievement and esteem of Baltimore area youth through choral music and cultural arts. UCAS seeks to build a community of artists, preserve music of the African diaspora, and empower youth with competitive artistic skills for innovation.

****Joys and Concerns:** We are a community who prays with and for each other. There is a book in the narthex where you may write your joys and concerns, to be included in the Prayers of the People and shared in our weekly prayer chain email. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain email: faithchurchbalt@gmail.com.

This week we pray for:

Ann Scheck
Faith's homebound members

The people of Ukraine
Victims of gun violence

WELCOME to Faith Presbyterian Church! If you are visiting with us this morning, we hope you found our worship to be meaningful - your presence enriches our community. If you are seeking a church home, we hope you will return soon so that we might get to know you better. To learn about ways to get engaged in the life of Faith, check out our website, www.faihpcbalt.org, and speak with our pastor, Rev. Cat Goodrich, cgoodrich@faihpcbalt.org.

KIDS are welcome at Faith! Our PRAYGROUND at the front of the sanctuary is for children 6 and younger during worship. There are books and quiet activities to keep hands busy so ears can listen, and it's close to the action so that our youngest members can experience the beauty of worship in a space that's just for them.

Faith Kids will rehearse for the Christmas pageant during worship today and after. Plan to come to worship on December 18 when the pageant will be the proclamation of the word!

Remembering that It Happened Once
A Christmas Poem by Wendell Berry

Remembering that it happened once,
We cannot turn away the thought,
As we go out, cold, to our barns
Toward the long night's end, that we
Ourselves are living in the world
It happened in when it first happened,
That we ourselves, opening a stall
(A latch thrown open countless times
Before, might find them breathing there,
Foreknown: the Child bedded in straw,
The mother kneeling over Him,
The husband standing in belief
He scarcely can believe, in light
That lights them from no source we see,
An April morning's light, the air
Around them joyful as a choir.
We stand with one hand on the door,
Looking into another world

That is this world, the pale daylight
Coming just as before, our chores
To do, the cattle all awake,
Our own frozen breath hanging
In front of us; and we are here
As we have never been before,
Sighted as not before, our place
Holy, although we knew it not.



Advent

Faith Presbyterian Church

Advent Study: Dec. 11&18, 9:15

The Forum will reflect on the the birth of Christ through the lens of Matthew & Luke

Advent Festival: Dec. 4 following Worship

Festive Luncheon, Alternative Gifts
and Activities for Everyone

Third Sunday of Advent

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant

What's It All About? by Susan Johnston

Presented by the Children and Youth of Faith

Hops & Hymns, Dec. 18, 6:00PM

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long at Full Tilt Brewery

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 6:00PM

A Service for the Longest Night

Worship in the Chapel

Christmas Eve 5:00PM

Worship with Communion & Candlelight

Christmas Day 11:00AM

A Casual Service with Carols & Scripture,
followed by a Luncheon