

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace
December 4, 2022



John the Baptist, 1973
Vie de Jesus Mafa, Cameroon

Faith Presbyterian Church
ORDER OF WORSHIP

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

Joys and Concerns

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude Wacht Auf BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

***Call to Worship** ¹

Chandra Jackson

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Make a path for our God through the desert places of our lives, and of the world.

Every valley will be lifted up...

¹ (from Isaiah 40: 3-5), adapted from *Cloth for the Cradle: Worship Resources for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*, The Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc: Chicago, 2000, p. 41.

And every mountain and hill will be laid low.

The glory of God shall be revealed;

All people shall see it together!

***Hymn 106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, have mercy on us: we are not ready for your coming. The prophets talk of peace, but we can only hear the machinery of war. They point us to signs of mystery and wonder, but we doubt what we cannot prove and ignore what we cannot see. We do not trust good news to be good. Forgive our little faith, and help us to trust that what is promised surely is coming. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

Kyrie 90 *Wait for the Lord*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

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

Moment with Faith Kids

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Burns/MacDonald Families

Creative Prayer for Advent

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

VENI EMMANUEL

verses 1&4

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Music *Lo, How a Rose*

David Paxton
(1934-2015)

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

How We Prepare

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn 102** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

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 *Dona Nobis Pacem*

arr. Barbara Wallace
(1932-2005)

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,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in 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.

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

God of hope, joy and peace, with thanks we have gathered at your blessed table. Now send us out with strong voices, courageous souls, and hearts that overflow with love, that we might prepare the way for your coming among us, beside us, once more. Amen.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn 163** *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

ABERYSTWYTH

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"*

Andrew Carter
(b. 1939)

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor
Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist
Chandra Jackson, Liturgist
, Elder of the Day
The Burns/MacDonald Families, Candlelighters
Mozella Williams, Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint
Mike Shirey, Audio/Camera

****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.faithpcbalt.org, and speak with our pastor, Rev. Cat Goodrich, cgoodrich@faithpcbalt.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 through December 11. Plan to come to worship on December 18 when the pageant will be the proclamation of the word!

Advent Festival *Today following worship*

Celebrate Advent starting with a festive luncheon served in the Fellowship Hall. Shop for friends and family at the alternative gift table; the proceeds go to the Deacon's Hands of Faith fund, there are activities for children and adults. Everyone is welcome!

The paper lace banners depict our journey through Advent, guided by stars on our way to Bethlehem to welcome the Christ child. The banner that hangs behind the choir was designed by Laurie Newton, and the star that hangs from the lectern was inspired by a design by Hannah Garrity of A Sanctified Art, LLC. Many hands helped to create these banners, including: Cora Bissett, Cathie Dodson, Robert Gardener, Cat Goodrich, Maddie Goodrich, Veronica Herber, Kristin Herber, Emily Jarrett, Wilkes Jarrett, Karen Meyers, Pat Nesbitt, Laurie Newton, Laurie's sister, and Judy Sperling. They were hung by Neil Nemser and Ron Sperling.