

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023
10:45 a.m.



Areopagus Hill

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

Prelude *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Emma Lou Diemer
(b. 1927)

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

***Call to Worship**

Chandra Jackson

In daily life, we notice the Spirit’s presence when we are fully present.

Bless God, one and all; let the sound of our praise be heard!

In moments of crisis, we are not alone.

Bless God, one and all; let the sound of our praise be heard!

In times of grief, we are held by the holy love of our creator in community.

Bless God, one and all; let the sound of our praise be heard!

This is why hope lives within us, why hope is kept alive here: in joy and sorrow, difficulty and ease, God’s steadfast love remains with us.

Bless God, one and all; let the sound of our praise be heard!

***Hymn 366** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of creation, we move and live and have our being in you. And yet, a cacophony of voices clamor for our attention and crowd yours out. Fixed only on what’s right in front of us, we forget who we are, and to whom we belong. We neglect your call to love and serve others as Christ loved and served us. Forgive us! Open our eyes that we might notice your abiding presence with us, and through us, once more. We open our hearts in silent prayer...

Kyrie 466 *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." and "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!"

Assurance of Grace

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff of each system. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Moment with Faith Kids

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading John 14:15-21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the One who sent me, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees nor knows. You know, because God abides with you, and will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day, you will know that I am in our Loving God. And You are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them loves me; and those who love me will be loved by our Loving God. I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Music *More Love to Love*

Penny Rodriguez
(b. 1958)

New Testament Reading Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and

everything in it, is Sovereign of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is served by human hands, as though the One needed anything, God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps find the One—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For “In God we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now commands all people everywhere to repent, because the day is fixed on which the world judged in righteousness by a man whom God has appointed, and has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Unknown God

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn 509** *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

HOLY MANNA

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 Anthem *O God, Your Goodness*

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

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 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

In the sanctuary, you may either receive the juice by intinction (dip the bread in the cup), or with the sealed cup to take back to your pew. Gluten free bread is in a smaller dish on each plate. Come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the outside aisle.

If you are joining us from home, please break your bread when the bread is broken in the sanctuary. When the cup is poured, please pour it at home, 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 the open table, we praise you for the gift of this feast. May the meal we have freely shared inspire us to open our tables to those in need. May the living cup from which we have drunk fill us with the life and peace of Christ. May the Spirit that has knit us together in this meal accompany us as we go forth, that we might build community and walk in love in all times and places. Amen.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn 327** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Benediction**

Postlude *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

setting David Cherwien
(b. 1957)

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor
Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music & Organist
Chandra Jackson, Liturgist
The Chancel Choir
Patrick Baker, Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint
Andy Fuller, Audio/Camera

WELCOME to Faith Presbyterian Church! If you are visiting with us this morning, we hope you find 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.

Restroom – the closest restroom is outside the door at the front of the sanctuary (by the pulpit), just turn right.

Sign up for our weekly **News & Notes** by completing the visitor card or go to the website: faithpcbalt.org and navigate to “Contact Us.”

BUILD invites the North Baltimore Stakeholders to meet on May 16 at 6:30pm at Northside Baptist Church to build relationships & identify common concerns.

NEXT SUNDAY, May 21 we will be led in worship by our children and youth. Join us to celebrate their leadership!

The Session has called a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**, next Sunday, **May 21**, at the conclusion of worship to elect new elders and deacons. Please plan to attend!

The Forum: Faith formation gathering for youth and adults, *Sundays, 9:15 in the Woodmont Room and on Zoom.*

May 21: Art with a Heart: Christina Ralls, Director of Workforce Development and Social Enterprise with Art with a Heart will share about their work, preparing us to host a group from their workforce development program this summer! Then, in worship on that day, we will install the stepping stones created at the EcoFest in our new green space.

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. Join Cat every Wednesday to reflect on the coming Sunday's lectionary passage. All are welcome! Meeting ID: 818 8551 6595; Passcode: 716331

We have a new logo! Pick up a magnet for your car or refrigerator, a t-shirt (suggested donation \$10), or a sticker in the narthex!