

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, June 25, 2023**



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

Joys and Concerns

Prelude *Amazing Grace*

arr. Fred Swann
(1931-2022)

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

***Call to Worship**

Delevena Brown

We worship the one true God,
the God who flung the stars and breathed us into being.
We worship the one true God,
who shows us the path to wholeness, and walks the way of peace.
We worship the one true God,
Creator, redeemer, sustainer of all!

***Hymn 26** *Earth and All Stars!*

EARTH AND ALL STARS

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, ruler of all, we confess we are quick to look the other way when evil rears its head. When it is time to speak up, we cannot find our voices. When it is time to stand up, we too often sit back. We do not want to put our bodies on the line or to make too big a scene. With our apathy and complacency, we harm our neighbors and fail to follow in Christ's way. Forgive us! Send your Spirit to give us strength that we might stand for your decrees of justice, truth, and love. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

Kyrie 423 *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

SARADAY

1 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.

Assurance of Grace

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Moment with Faith Kids

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Bible Reading Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Hebrew Bible Reading Daniel 3:14-27

Nebuchadnezzar said to them, ‘Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?’

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.’

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counsellors, ‘Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?’ They answered the king, ‘True, O king.’ He replied, ‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.’ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!’ So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counsellors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

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

Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn 833** *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

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

Prayer of the People and 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.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn 15** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God*

Egil Hovland
(1924-2013)

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor
Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist
Delevena Brown, Liturgist
Dawn Shirey, Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint
Andy Fuller, 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:

Faith's homebound members and
those receiving long-term care
Our partners in Cuba

Victims of gun violence
The people of Ukraine

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.faiithpcbalt.org, and speak with our pastor, Rev. Cat Goodrich, cgoodrich@faiithpcbalt.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: faiithpcbalt.org and navigate to “Contact Us.”

Gather Round the Fire Join your Faith friends for a campfire and cookout at the McGills’ tonight at 5pm, 807 Reckord Rd, Fallston, MD 21047. Bring a dish to share if you can!

BUILD Community Meeting: North Baltimore Neighbors are invited to meet this **Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30** at Northside Baptist Church, 1100 E. Northern Parkway, 21239

Faith is supporting four young men from Nexus Woodbourne to do landscaping and neighborhood cleanup, through the **B’more Beautiful YES** program. If you would like to take part, volunteer from 10am-1pm, Thursday, June 29.

Faith has PRIDE! Please plan to **march in the parade** with us at **12:30 Saturday, June 24**. There will be an **interfaith service** for PRIDE at Brown Memorial Park Avenue on **Thursday, June 29 at 6pm**.

The Forum: Faith formation gathering for youth and adults, *Sundays, 9:15 in the Woodmont Room and on Zoom*. **The Forum is taking a break for the summer**. It will return in September. In the meantime, if you have ideas about a series or class you'd like to see, please email Cat, cgoodrich@faiithpcbalt.org!

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.



May 28 *Tongues of Fire*

Acts 2:1-21

The fire of Pentecost inspires us to connect and reach out in new ways, to catch up with what God is doing in the world.

June 4 *The Burning Bush*

Exodus 3:1-15

This scripture points us to the truth that God is not a logic puzzle to be explained but an impossible mystery to be experienced, a source of life, power, and wonder.

June 11 *The Pillars of Cloud and Fire*

Exodus 13:17-22

God accompanied and guided the Israelites to freedom through pillars of cloud and fire. How does God guide us today?

June 18 *Eternal Flame*

Leviticus 6:8-13

The care paid to the fire of the temple, that it never goes out, is instructive. How are we keeping the fire alive in our congregation and worship?

June 25 *The Fiery Furnace*

Daniel 3:14-30

Do we have the courage of Daniel and his companions to stand up to evil in the world?

July 2 *Campfire on the Beach*

John 21:1-17

The disciples have returned to their old lives when Jesus makes himself known to them in a miracle of abundance. This campfire story stands as a beautiful companion piece to communion—not the Last Supper, but the First Breakfast.