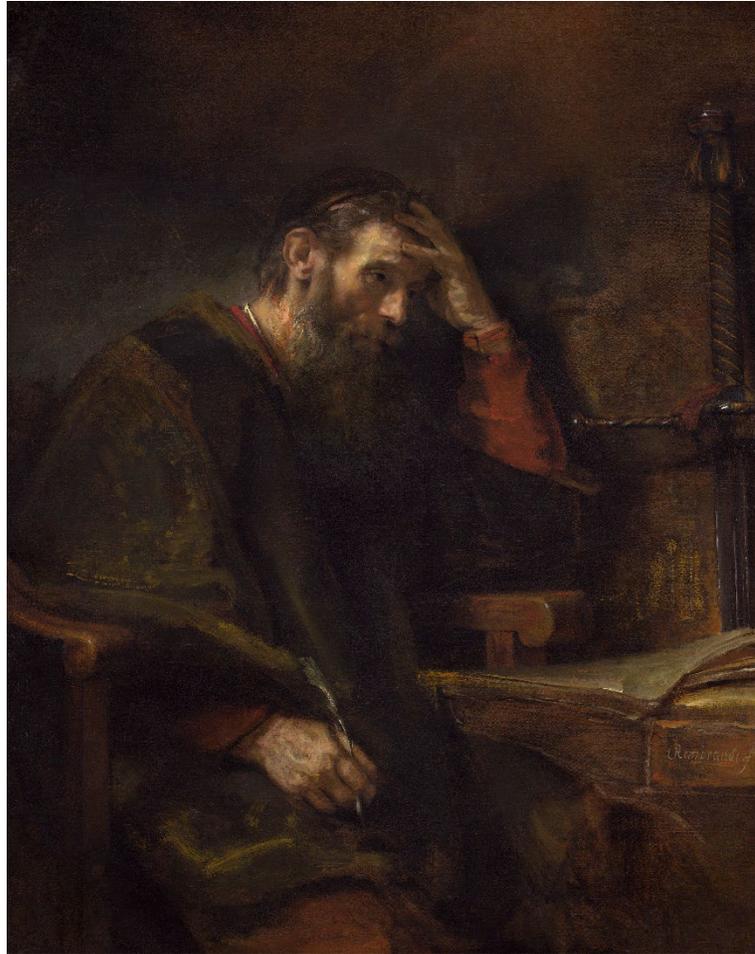


**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 6, 2023**



The Apostle Paul, oil on canvas
National Gallery, West Building, Washington DC
Rembrandt van Rijn, (1606-1669) Dutch

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Announcements

Delevena Brown

Joys and Concerns

Prelude *Prelude on "Beach Spring"*

Charles Callahan
(b. 1951)

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

***Call to Worship**

Love that never ceases,
Creativity that designed the universe,

Hope that cannot be quenched,
Justice and reconciliation made real:
This is the work of God.
With joy and thanksgiving, we lift our voices to worship.

***Hymn 363** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us to be disciples: carrying your good news with us wherever we go. But we are reluctant to answer your call. Preoccupied with our own concerns, we focus on what's wrong in the world instead of seeing your Spirit at work to heal and to reconcile that which has been broken and estranged. Open our eyes to see your goodness, not as something that resides here or there, but as grace covering everything. 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

***Gloria 645** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

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

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament *Proverbs 17:28*

Even fools who keep silent are considered wise;
when they close their lips, they are deemed intelligent.

Gospel *Mark 9:2-8*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

Music

New Testament Reading *Acts 28:23-31*

Dr. Arthur Sutherland

After they had fixed a day to meet him, they came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe. So they disagreed with each other; and as they were leaving, Paul made one further statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah,

“Go to this people and say,
You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.”

Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.’

He lived there for two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rest of the Story

Dr. Sutherland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn 287** *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*

NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA

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

Mike Shirey, *vocals and guitar*

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 309** *Come, Great God of All the Ages*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Toccata*

Gaston Béliet
(1863-1938)

Leading Worship Today

Dr. Arthur Sutherland, *Guest Preacher*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Delevana Brown, *Liturgist*
Patrick Baker, *Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint*
Andy Fuller, *Audio/Camera*

Faith Presbyterian Pastor Staff

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, *Pastor*

Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns, *Pastor Emerita*

Rev. Kate Foster, *Parish Associate*

Rev. Doris Cowan, *Parish Associate*

Rev. Bill Millen, *Parish Associate*

****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 gathering: If you are new to Faith, plan to stay after worship on Sunday, August 13 for lunch and a time of learning about our congregation. Pastor Cat will give an overview of our church's structure, mission, and ministry, and we'll explore what it means to be Presbyterian here at Faith. If you plan to attend, please let us know: catfaithchurchbalt@gmail.com.

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.

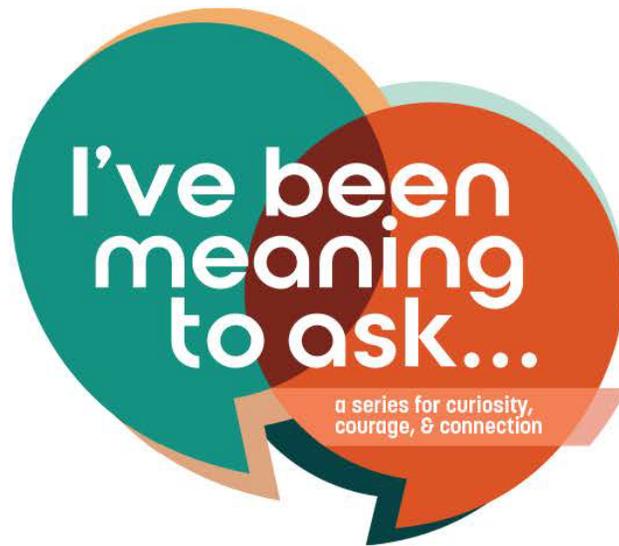
Sign up for our weekly **News & Notes** by completing the visitor card or go to the website: faithpcbalt.org and navigate to “Contact Us.”

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@faithpcbalt.org!

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00 a.m. on Zoom Bible Study is on break until August 23.

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.

Summer Sermon Series



All courageous conversations begin with simple questions and the curiosity to truly listen. Over the next six weeks, we will ask questions and listen, deepening our connections to one another and to God as we seek to strengthen our beloved community of Faith.

July 23 - Genesis 2:4b-15
Where Are You From?

July 30 - Mark 5:21-43
Where Does It Hurt?

August 13 - Mark 8:27-38
What Keeps You Up at Night?

August 20 - Job 2:11-13
What Do You Need?

August 27 - Acts 10:30-48
Where Do We Go from Here?

September 3 - *Conversation Church*