

Homecoming Sunday
September 10, 2023



Baltimore Love Mural at Pulse Club Orlando
Michael Owen

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

Zach Nemser

Welcome home, faithful pilgrims! Though we may lose our way at times,
when we gather to worship, we find God in our midst.

Though obstacles and obligations might keep us from our communal life together,
The Spirit is at work among us, guiding us to fullness of life.

When we cannot find our way out of conflict and discord,
We remember that God calls and equips us for the work of reconciliation.

Pilgrims on the way, remember that when two or three are gathered:
God is here among us!

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the whole universe, we confess that more than deep questions, we love easy answers. So we explain away miracles, disarm the Good News, and domesticate your wilderness ways. Teach us to live the questions, Holy One, and to struggle with our faith. Help us step into the vulnerability of what cannot be known, that we might find comfort in the mystery. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

Assurance of Grace

***Gloria** *Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!*

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!
Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!

***Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you...
... and also with you.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A Moment with Faith Kids

Prayer for Illumination 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Epistle Reading Romans 13:8-12a

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Music

New Testament Reading Matthew 18:15-20

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree

on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

This is the word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Conflict Averse?

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Song** *Get Together*

Chester Powers
Chester William Powers Jr.

Love is but a song to sing
Fear's the way we die
You can make the mountains ring
Or make the angels cry
Though the bird is on the wing
And you may not know why

Refrain:

Come on people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another
Right now

Some may come and some may go
We shall surely pass
When the one that left us here
Returns for us at last
We are but a moment's sunlight
Fading in the grass

Refrain

If you hear the song I sing
You will understand (listen!)
You hold the key to love and fear
All in your trembling hand
Just one key unlocks them both
It's there at your command

Refrain

Right now
Right now

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

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

We will share communion by intinction this morning, forming a large circle and serving one another. Take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and eat both elements together. As you pass the bread, say, "this is the bread of life, broken for you." As you pass the cup, say, "this is the cup of heaven, poured out for you." If you prefer a sealed cup, take one from the basket that will be passed as well.

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.

Music

Prayer after Communion

God of the feast, in gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. May Christ who has nourished us be our peace, breaking down the barriers between us and binding us together as one body. Take us out to live as changed people, because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. All God's people say, Amen!

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*Song *Bind Us Together*

Refrain: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
Bind us together with love

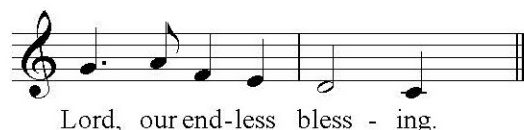
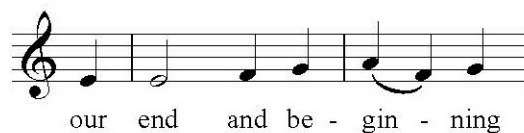
There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one body
That is why we sing

Refrain

You are the family of God
You are the promise divine
You are God's chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine

*Charge and Benediction

*Sung Benediction *Our Going and Coming*



Postlude

Please join us for a picnic following worship

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor

Zach Nemser, Liturgist

Mike Shirey, Vocals & Guitar

Lenny Rogers, Steel Pan

Dawn Shirey, PowerPoint & Zoom Moderator

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.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.

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.* cgoodrich@faithpcbalt.org!

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00 a.m. on Zoom Wednesday - Join Cat every Wednesday to reflect on the coming Sunday's lectionary passage. All are welcome!

Choir rehearsal begins September 14 at 7pm in the chapel. Come and add your voice to the Chancel Choir! See Dr. Samuel Springer for more information.

Children's Sunday School begins next Sunday, September 17! Faith kids are invited after the Moment with Faith Kids, the group will leave to explore the passage of the day with games, crafts, and other activities, and return at the end of worship.

ROPAGOFA Youth Group at Faith, Sunday, September 17! Join young people from Faith, Govans, and Roland Park churches to build a durable faith through fun, games, and encountering God together. Every third Sunday – September 17 at Faith, October 15 at Govans, November 19 at Stoneleigh Lanes (Bowling Alley), December 17 at Faith.

THE
FORUM
SUNDAYS 9:15
WOODMONT ROOM

God and the Good Life:
Exploring our values as people of Faith

September 17
Christian Virtues and Faith's Values

September 24
Generosity

October 1
Curiosity and Doubt

October 8
Compassion and Justice

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH