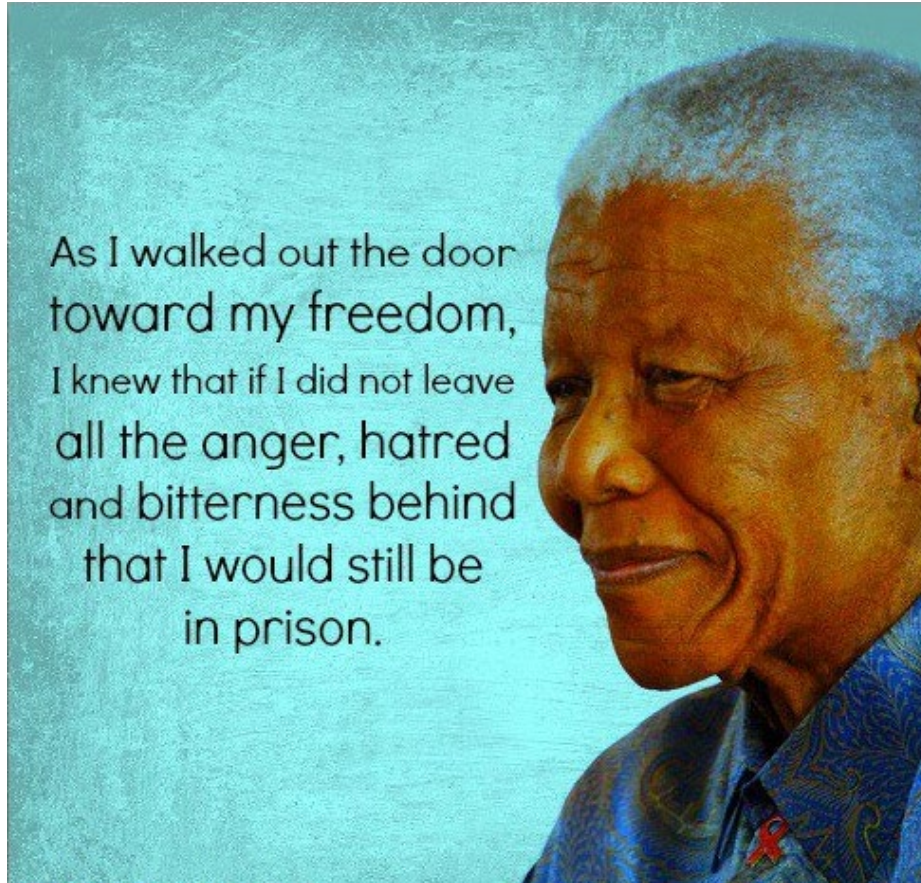


24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17, 2023



**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 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

setting David Cherwien
(b. 1957)

***Call to Worship**

Paula Burger

Come to us, Holy God, as we gather:
Encircle us with your love.

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

Bless us with your sustaining word,
and open us up to your presence that
surrounds, **upholds**, enlivens, **enriches**, sustains, and
binds us together as disciples in worship.

***Hymn 301** *Let Us Build a House*

TWO OAKS

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, you call us to forgive as we hope to be forgiven. Too often we hold grudges, and refuse to do the work of reconciliation. We have spoken without thought of the impact of our words, we have forgotten to stop and listen; we have kept silent instead of telling the truth. We have eaten without thought for the hungry, and failed to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Forgive us! Help us receive and share the grace you freely offer. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

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

NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading;
fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing;
help us to follow you.

Refrain:

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

Assurance of Grace

***Gloria 637** *O Sing to the Lord*

CANTAI AO SENHOR

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

***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

Epistle Reading Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

Music *How Great Thou Art*

arr. Janet Vogt
(b. 1953)

New Testament Reading Matthew 18:21-35 ¹

Stands on the Rock (Peter) came close to Creator Sets Free (Jesus). "Wisdomkeeper," he asked, "how many times must I forgive a brother or sister who does wrong to me? Is seven times enough?" "Not just seven times," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered, "but seventy times seven."

"So then, Creator's good road is like a ruler who wanted to collect the debt owed to him by his hired servants. The first one brought to him owed ten thousand horses. The man could not repay him, so the ruler ordered that the man, his family, and all he owned be sold to pay for the debt. The servant fell to his knees before him and said, 'Ruler, give me time and I will repay all that I owe!' "The ruler felt sorry for the servant, set him free, and released him from his debt."

"But that same servant went to one of his fellow servants who owed him only a small horse blanket. He took hold of the man's throat and said, 'Pay me all that you owe!' The man humbled himself, bowed down, and pleaded, 'Please, give me more time and I will repay you!' "But he would not even listen and threw the man into prison until he could pay all that he owed. When

¹ "Matthew 18:21-35," *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*, InterVarsity Press: Illinois, 2021, page 35.

his fellow servants saw this, it made their hearts fall to the ground. They went to the ruler and told him the sad story.”

“The ruler had the man brought to him and said, 'You worthless servant! How could your heart be so cold? I forgave you all your debt because you begged me to. Why would you not do the same for your fellow servant?' The ruler was angry with him and put him in prison to be punished until his debt was paid in full.”

“My Father from above is warning you that the same thing will happen to you unless, from your heart, you each forgive your fellow human beings.”

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Grace Abounds

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn 383** *Dream On, Dream On*

DREAM ON

Minute for Mission *Peace and Global Witness Offering*

Laurie Newton

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 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

Alan Smith
(b. 1962)

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 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

***Charge and Benediction**

Dream on, dream on children of peace, till on earth God's kingdom come.
Wolf and lamb will feed together; lions like oxen will eat straw.
Dust shall be the serpent's food; on one shall destroy or hurt.
Children of the earth in all colors, live in peace and harmony.

Postlude *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, *Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Paula Burger, *Liturgist*
Mozella Williams, *Deacon of the Day*
Patrick Baker, *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, Morocco, Libya, and all
those who suffer from war and disaster.

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! Meeting ID: 818 8551 6595; passcode: 716331

Faith's choir rehearses on Thursdays 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 today, Sunday, September 17! After the Moment with Faith Kids, kids ages 4 and up are invited to explore the passage of the day with games, crafts, and other activities. They will return at the end of worship to the sanctuary.

Today! ROPAGOFA Youth Group at Faith this Sunday, September 17 at 5:30! 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.

