

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 24, 2023



Vineyard, poster  
Johann Georg van Caspel (1870-1928) Dutch

**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** *Bread of Heaven*

William B. Cooper  
(1920 – 1993)

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Sondra Watkins

We gather to worship the God who provides:  
In times of scarcity and want, **we have faith in God's provision.**  
In times of plenty and abundance, **we have faith in God's provision.**  
**God has no hands and feet but our own;**  
So let us worship God, **who calls us to share in abundant life together.**

**\*Hymn 49** *The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Generous God, we are concerned about workers. So many are underpaid, underappreciated, exploited, and struggle with debt. We admit we have stood by while the rich hoard wealth and the poor continue to suffer; we have not done enough. We do not appreciate what we have, and believe the myth of scarcity instead of trusting in your abundant grace. Forgive us! Help us share with open hearts and open hands, that all might know and trust your provision. 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

#### Hebrew Bible Reading Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ And Moses said, ‘When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.”’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.”’

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

**Music** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Michael Cox  
(b. 1948)

#### Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the

marketplace; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So, they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So, the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*What Is Fair?*

**Rev. Goodrich**

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\***Hymn 733** *We All Are One in Mission*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

**Minute for Mission** *Peace and Global Witness Offering*

**Karen Meyers**

**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** *Building Up the Kingdom*

M. Roger Holland II

**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 36** *For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Sung Benediction 383** *Dream On, Dream On*

DREAM ON

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** *Songs of Praise*

Herbert Chappell  
(b. 1934)

**LEADING WORSHIP TODAY**

**Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor**  
**Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist**  
**Sondra Watkins, Liturgist**  
**Mozella Williams, Elder of the Day**  
**Delevena Brown, Usher**  
**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](mailto: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](http://www.faithpcbalt.org), and speak with our pastor, Rev. Cat Goodrich, [cgoodrich@faithpcbalt.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 has begun!** 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.

**ROPAGOFA Youth Group meets every third Sunday 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 –October 15 at Govans, November 19 at Stoneleigh Lanes (Bowling Alley), December 17 at Faith. **Faith youth will gather** here monthly for our own Faith Formation Group on the first Sundays at 5:30.

**New Directory** We are updating our church directory! Please submit a recent photo and any changes to your address or contact information to [faithchurchbalt@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurchbalt@gmail.com).



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

