

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2023



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

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.

**Faith Presbyterian Church
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

JOYS AND CONCERNS

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Kate Foster

In the wilderness, a voice cries out:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

The days are surely coming when God will speak peace to all people.

**Love and faithfulness will meet,
righteousness and peace will kiss.**

Behold: our salvation is at hand! Let us make way for God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that the words of the prophets have not shaken us from complacency. We fail to search the sky for stars; we hope for little and expect even less. We doubt what we cannot prove, we ignore what we cannot see. Forgive our cynical acceptance of the world as it is!

Awaken us to action.

Stir us to courage.

Rouse us to prepare a way in the wilderness for your coming, clearing the brush of oppression, racism, injustice, and hopelessness—so that all might look with hope toward the coming dawn.

We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

KYRIE 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

WAITING

While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

***GLORIA 646** *Sing Out, My Soul*

MAGNIFICAT

Sing out, my soul.
Sing out, my soul.
Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.
Sing out, my soul.
Sing out, my soul.
Sing out and glorify the Lord God!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A MOMENT WITH FAITH KIDS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Faith Kids

* Promised one, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to become the signs of peace for which others search. As these candles are a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's peace. Amen.

***HYMN 89** *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

The choir and congregation sing the refrain, a soloist will sing the 2nd verse, then all will sing the refrain.

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING Isaiah 11:1-10 – A Vision of the Reign of God

Susan Minor, GEDCO Board

In the reign of God, strangers become friends and all places know peace.
We will work for peace in our lives and in our world.

***CAROL 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

verses 1, 4, 6,7

READING Luke 1:26-38 – The Annunciation

Shirl Baltimore, President
Woodbourne Heights N'hood Association

When angels appear, they remind us: “Do not be afraid!”
We will face our fears with courage and faith.

ANTHEM *O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion from Messiah*

Monea Brown, *mezzo soprano*

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

READING Luke 1:39-45 The meeting between Elizabeth and Mary

Cimone Austin
Urban Choral Arts Society

God promises restoration, redemption, peace, and justice for all.
With Mary, we look toward the future with hope.

***CAROL 104** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

READING Matthew 1:18-25 – Joseph’s dream

David Rawle, Volunteer
Blue Water Baltimore

Though we may feel alone and isolated,
Christ came as Emmanuel, God with us.

ANTHEM *La Jornada (The Journey)*
Venezuelan traditional carol

arr. Ben Parr
(b. 1965)

READING Luke 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus

Rev. Kate Foster, Director of Trail Development
Rails to Trails Conservancy

He came not with riches or power, but with humility, seeking shelter against the cold.
We will serve him with love, amongst all who are in need.

ANTHEM *He is Born, the Holy Child*
French traditional carol

arr. Ben Parry

READING Luke 2:8-14 The heavens rejoice

Tiffany Richardson, Business Process Manager
Lochwood Apartments

As the child was wrapped in bands of cloth, so we are wrapped in God's love.
With grateful hearts, we will share God's peace with all.

***CAROL 113** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

READING *Mosaic of the Nativity*
Serbia, Winter, 1993

by Jane Kenyon

Rev. Goodrich

On the domed ceiling God
is thinking:
I made them my joy,
and everything else I created
I made to bless them.
But see what they do!
I know their hearts
and arguments:

“We’re descended from
Cain. Evil is nothing new,
so what does it matter now
if we shell the infirmary,
and the well where the fearful
and rash alike must
come for water?”

God thinks Mary into being.
Suspended at the apogee
of the golden dome,
she curls in a brown pod,
and inside her mind
of Christ, cloaked in blood,
lodges and begins to grow.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND ADVENT PRAYER BOOKS

You are invited to come forward and write a prayer for peace and add it to the prayer book: write a word naming something or someone who brings you peace, write a place in need of peace.

Hymn 103 *Come now, O Prince of Peace*

O-SO-SO

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art 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 100 *Canticle of the Turning*

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Paeon on "Divinum Mysterium"*

John Cook
(1918-1984)

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, *Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Rev. Kate Foster, *Liturgist*
Chancel Choir
Monea Brown, *Soloist*
Faith Kids, *Candlelighters*
Dawn Shirey, *Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint*
Andy Fuller, *Audio/Camera*

Our Readers today represent many of our church's community partners, in the tradition of the King's College service of Lessons and Carols, which is led in part by community members. They

Susan Minor is the chair of Faith's board of Deacons and serves on the board of the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO). Susan volunteers with the CARES pantry each week, and serves as liaison between Faith and Harford House, a supportive affordable housing community for men who were at one time unhoused.

David Rawle came to Faith as a volunteer with Blue Water Baltimore. Along with his wife, Lori, David helped to plant the second batch of trees in our new green space on the north end of our lot - reducing stormwater runoff and beautifying our neighborhood, a project made possible with the support of BWB and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

Shirl Baltimore is the President of the Woodbourne Heights Neighborhood Association and is a resident of Woodbourne Heights. She has been engaged in the conversations around community safety with our city councilor Mark Conway and District Commander Major Jonathan Amey, organized by the Loch Raven/Northern Parkway churches and BUILD.

Tiffany Richardson is the Business Process Manager with Fairfax Station Enterprises, who manages Lochwood Apartments. She has been deeply involved in our efforts to improve neighborhood safety and build a strong relationship with residents, our city councilor, and the police.

Kate Foster is the Mid-Atlantic Director of Trail Development with the Rails to Trails Conservancy who also serves as a parish associate at Faith, preaching, leading worship, teaching, and supporting our community engagement efforts.

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, Israel, Palestine, Sudan,
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.

Childcare for our young children is available. While kids are welcome in worship, there is a caregiver and safe play space in the nursery, just out the door nearest the pulpit.

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

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. Next Sunday – **December 17 at Faith.**

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.

Christmas Day Luncheon the Deacons will host a traditional Christmas Dinner on **Monday, December 25th at 1:00 pm** in Hyde Hall for our Faith Family. Please let Dawn Shirey (dawnmshirey@gmail.com -- 443-791-4362) or the office know if you plan to attend and/or if you would like to contribute a favorite dish for this special meal.

Faith Kids will rehearse for the Christmas pageant during worship today and after. Plan to come to worship on December 17 when the pageant will be the proclamation of the word!

The Advent Festival was a wonderful success, but opportunities to continue giving abound. **Today, following worship,** take a minute to look for the **Hands of Faith table in the hallway** outside of the sanctuary. There are a few gifts still available for purchase.