

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17, 2023



Stained Glass Nativity, Advent Prayer Project
Tissue paper, ink, waxed paper, modge podge on plexiglass.
By Faith Church, December 2021

Pageant Sunday

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 *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

Michael Bedford
(b. 1949)

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lauren Hill

Young and old, from near and far, we are drawn together by a promise:

Christ is coming.

The prophet's promise of restoration and peace is not a dream:

Christ is coming.

Mary sang of the lowly uplifted and the world turned 'round:

Christ is coming.

The days have grown short and the nights are long; still, we hold on to the promise:

Christ is coming to make all things new!

***CAROL 107** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE, REJOICE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the distant star, we confess that we do not have the courage of Mary. We ignore the angel's instruction "do not be afraid" – and allow the news to dash our hopes, and diminish our dreams. Help us hope for miracles, and give us the wonder of the shepherds, that we might have the faith to hurry to Bethlehem, to see this thing which has been made known to us. 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!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Chancel Choir

*** Promised one, as we search for signs of love this week,
help us to become the signs of love 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 love. Amen.**

The choir and congregation sing the refrain, a soloist will sing the 4th verse, then all will sing the refrain.

Refrain

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW BIBLE READING Isaiah 61:1-4

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

GOSPEL READING John 1:1-14

Rev. Goodrich

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

Thanks be to God.



PIANO *Adagio Cantabile*

Johnathan Skinner

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

2023 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“The Word”

Soloist:	Campbell Burd Gabriella Anthony
Prophets:	Autumn Paige Nixon Hill
Towering Angels:	James Herber (Teller) Veronica Herber (Teller) Renatta Anthony (Hope) Ashton Kendall (Hark)
Actors:	Noah Burd Maddie Goodrich Campbell Burd
Shepherds, Angels & Animals:	Gillian Goodrich Josie Nemser Jo Macdonald Robbie Nemser et al
Mary:	Gabriella Anthony
Joseph & Piano:	Jonathan Skinner

Angel Choir: Deb Colmers, Phyllis Compton, Adelaide Cook, Bobby Hall, Mary Hodgson, Neil Nemser, Pat Nesbitt, Marilyn Valentine, Natalie Wallace, Ted Wallace, Sondra Watkins

Usher: Jai Tomlinson

Flute: Sarah Nemser

Prophetic Artist: Laura Curtis

Directors: Susan Johnston, Robin Nemser, and Susan Minor

***HYMN 110** *Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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 *So Many Stars*

Lin Marsh

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND ADVENT PRAYER BOOKS

You are invited to come forward and write a prayer for love and add it to the prayer book: as a prayer of gratitude write a word naming something or someone whom you love, or write a place or person in need of love.

***CAROL 129** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

OUR 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 136** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

Mike Shirey, *guitar and vocals*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata on "Il est ne, le divin Enfant"*

Denis Bedard
(b. 1950)

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, *Pastor*

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

Lauren Hill, *Liturgist*

Robin Nemser, *Elder of the Day*

The Chancel Choir, *Candlelighters*

Dawn Shirey, *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, 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! There will be no Forum on December 24 and 31.

January Forum Schedule

7th - New Year's Resolutions (John and Deb Colmers)

14th - Cuba Partnership (Cuba team)

21st & 28th - Matthew 25 (John Colmers)

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 will not meet today: children are invited to stay for the pageant.

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: **Today, 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.

THE BANNER that hangs at the front of the sanctuary was created by a team of liturgical artists and designed by Laurie Newton. WATCH is filled with zentangles, a meditative drawing practice that also adorns the guiding words for each week of our advent prayer books (hope, peace, love, and joy). The background designs were painted by Christa Burns, Gail Poorbaugh, Mary Ellen Curtis, Judy Sperling, Karen Meyers, Robin Nemser, and Laurie Newton; Laurie digitized the paintings and turned them into our Advent banner.

Our Advent Prayer Books were created by the artists named above, along with Cat, Maddie, and Gillian Goodrich, and Pat Nesbitt. If you would like to be part of future liturgical arts efforts, please let Cat or Laurie know!

All ages welcome!

HOPS AND HYMNS

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long
with Faith Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, December 19
6-8 PM

At **Peabody Heights Brewery**
401 E 30th Street
Baltimore, MD 21212