

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 24, 2023, 10:45 A.M.



Mary: Love Forever Being Born  
Kelly Latimore Icons

*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*

arr. David Paxton  
(1934-2015)

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

All creation holds its breath.

**The time is almost here.**

In the dark, the blessing is wending its way down to us...

**Prepare, make ready, be glad, be glad!**

Emmanuel, God-with-Us, is coming to us.

**We look toward the future with hope! Let us worship the God of life together.**

\*CAROL 8 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, when we live as if love will never prevail over the hatred in the world or in us, have mercy. **We confess that we ignore the One you sent to us, nor have we allowed his words to change us. We've kept his birth confined to this season, and do not look for him to appear in the ordinary times of our lives. Lord, help us prepare for your advent in the world. Let your light break forth in all places. 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

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Retired Folk

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

### \*HYMN

*For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*    refrain & verse 6  
page 7

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### HEBREW BIBLE READING Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

\*CAROL 600 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

MORNING SONG

verses 1-3

READING *The Song of the Stars*

\*CAROLS

READING *I Will Light Candles This Christmas*

Howard Thurman

## 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.*



**MUSIC** *Still, Still, Still*

arr. Ben Logan

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND ADVENT PRAYER BOOKS

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

\***CAROL** *Wait for the Lord*

sung four times  
page 6

WAIT FOR THE LORD

### 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

\***CAROL 20** *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

ABERYSTWYTH

\***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Carol of the Bells*

Christopher Anderson Reed

### Leading Worship Today

**Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor**

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

**Robin Nemser, Elder of the Day**

**The Retired Folk, Candlelighters**

*Celebrate Christmas at  
Faith Church*

12/24 10:45 a.m. - Carols & Cocoa  
In the Chapel

**Christmas Eve**

5:00 p.m. - Worship with  
communion & candlelight

Faith Presbyterian Church, 5400 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore 21239  
faithpcbalt.org

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

90

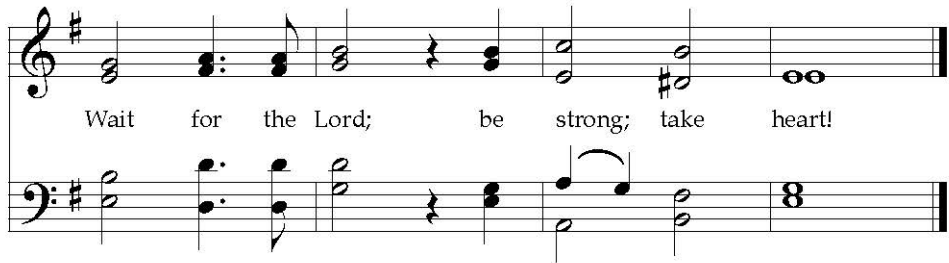
Wait for the Lord

(Psalm 27)

*Refrain*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

# For You, O Lord, My Soul 89

## in Stillness Waits

### My Soul in Stillness Waits

*Refrain*    Am    Dm    F    G    A    B<sup>b</sup>    C    Am7    Dm    *Fine*

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

        Dm            Am            Dm                            Am            Dm

1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,  
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;  
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,  
 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;  
 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;  
 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,

        Am            Dm                            Am            Dm            Am

your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us  
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -  
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to  
 let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are  
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the

        Dm                            Am            G            C    Am7    Dm            Am    Dm    *to Refrain*

hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.  
 whole, be com - fort to our hearts.  
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 us the path - way of your peace.  
 all the peo - ple of God's hand.  
 stars, and pres - ent to us now.

With a paraphrase of Psalm 62:5 as a refrain, this Advent text adapts four of the "Great O" antiphons (all of which can be seen in no. 88), combining them with a paraphrase of Psalm 95:6-7 and an echo of a medieval hymn. This rich blend yields a wealth of imagery and meaning.

**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](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.

**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](mailto:cgoodrich@faithpcbalt.org)! There will be no Forum on December 24 and 31.

**January Forum Schedule**

7<sup>th</sup> - New Year's Resolutions (John and Deb Colmers)

14<sup>th</sup> - Cuba Partnership (Cuba team)

21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> - 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

**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: **January 21 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](mailto:faithchurchbalt@gmail.com).

**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!