

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3, 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 Wacht Auf BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mike Billings

Advent is a time to wait, remembering the stories of God's work of salvation.

We search the sky, looking for a little light to guide our way.

We wait, seeking signs of justice and mercy springing forth in a world sore in need of them.

We watch for stars shining brightly despite the darkness of night.

We wait, and in our waiting, we live into our hope for a better world.

As we wait and watch for what we trust is coming, let us worship the one who makes all things new.

***HYMN 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, have mercy on us! We are not ready for your coming. More than two thousand years since Christ's birth, and what do we have to show for it? A world beset by war, your people wary and weary, the earth plundered. You urge us to keep awake, yet we shut our eyes and ears to block out the suffering. Forgive us! Forgive our hearts of stone, and open us up to the possibility of peace, compassion, and joy this day, in our lives, in our city, in our world. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

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

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

MOMENT WITH FAITH KIDS

Karen Burd

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Working Folk

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

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

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

Choir sings refrain, then the congregation joins; soloist will sing the 1st 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

MUSIC *Emmanuel Shall Come*

David Paxton
(1941-2022)

GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37

‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

This is the word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Path of Totality

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 87** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVAN 42

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Advent Giving*

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 *Waiting*

Joel Raney
(b. 1956)

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The prayer continues, concluding with...

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF COMMUNION

If you are in the sanctuary, please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and cup, and return by the outside aisle. Gluten free, dairy free bread is available in a dish on each plate. If you are at home, when the bread is broken, please break the bread. When the cup is poured, please pour it or touch the cup if you've already filled it. We give thanks that the Spirit is present wherever we are, knitting us together as the body of Christ in the world.

ADVENT PRAYER BOOKS

When you come forward to receive communion, you are invited to write a prayer of hope and add it to the prayer book: write a word naming something or someone who gives you hope, or something for which you hope.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy, our souls glorify your name, for you lift up the lowly and welcome us to your table. May the bread we have broken and shared help us stay awake, watching for signs of you reign breaking forth like the dawn. By the power of your Spirit, help us prepare the way for love, peace, justice, and joy to come among us once more. Amen.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 347** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"*

Andrew Carter
(b. 1939)

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor

Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist

Mike Billings, Liturgist

Robin Nemser, Elder of the Day

Jackie Billings, Usher

Working Folk, Candlelighters

Patrick Baker, Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint

Mike Shirey, 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!

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. Every third 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.



Sunday, December 3, Noon - 2:00

Faith's Advent Festival

Get ready to tick off that long list, with treats and special gifts for all to enjoy.

Discover

Handmade gifts, ornaments, homemade fudge sauce, Kalua for You'ah, Georgia pecans, and more!

Invite your friends and family to this festive celebration.

Join us for a potluck luncheon.