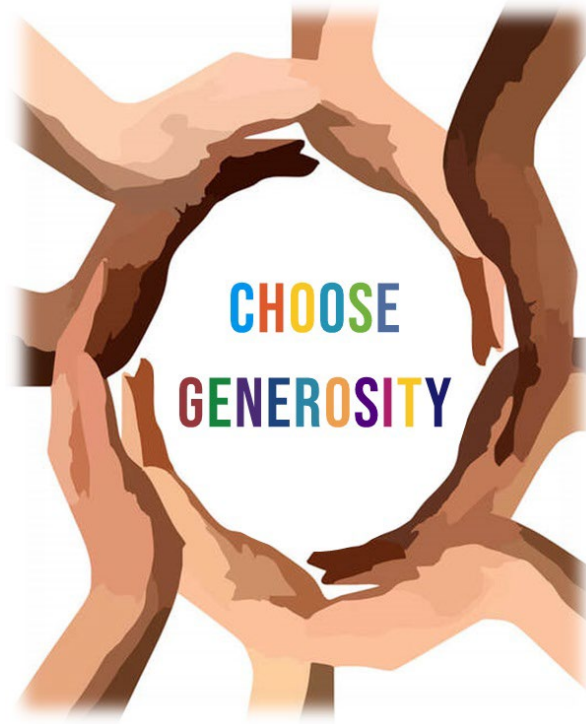


Stewardship Sunday
November 19, 2023



**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 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Veronica Herber

Come, you thankful people, come!
We gather, some in joy and gladness.
Come, you thankful people, come!
We gather, some with doubt or sadness.
Come, you thankful people, come!
**We gather just as we are, grateful for the embrace of this community,
through whom God bids us welcome.**

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, source of life, fount of mercy and giver of grace, hear our prayer. We are in need of healing: healing for our bodies; healing for our souls. We pray that you might help us to mend broken relationships, divisions in our city, fractures in our nation. Heal us from the sin of apathy, the shame of complicity and complacency in a world at war. We know that with you, everything is possible, even the repair of broken hearts and wounded souls, even the promise of peace in our time. We pray that your spirit will bring healing, here, to us, this day – that we might be set free. 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

Repeated four times

O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.

***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

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come

like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

MUSIC *We Gather, We Praise*

Ruth Elaine Schram
(b. 1956)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:14-30

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Generosity of Faith

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 697** *Take My Life*

HENDON

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Choose Generosity*

John Hutchins

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Carl Herber

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 *You'll Never Walk Alone from Carousel*

Richard Rogers

Ayanna Freelon, soprano

(1902-1979)

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.

***Litany of Dedication**

God of creation, you gave us life:

And so we give our thanks to you.

You created the earth, rich and teeming with life,

so we offer you, our Maker, the bounty from our fields.

You gifted us with time to be;

we invest our time and service as gifts again to you.

You gave us skills to work and create;

we bring you the fruits of our life and labor.

In a world where fear of scarcity drives decisions,

we choose generosity.

Some hide or hoard their talents, sharing only with a few;

we choose generosity.

Others stay isolated, disconnected from community;

we choose generosity.

Freely we have received, and so freely and joyfully we give;

we choose generosity!

Holy One, gift to gift, grace to grace, our lives are simply your life within us. Receive our offerings and pledges for 2024, that we might love abundantly and serve with energy, intelligence, and imagination in the year ahead. Pour out your spirit on Faith Church that we might continue to choose generosity for years to come. Amen.

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 710** *We Lift Our Voices*

BEACH SPRING

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, Pastor

Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music and Organist

Veronica Herber, Liturgist

Paula Burger, Elder of the Day

Carl & Kristin Herber, Usbers

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.

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.

Sign up for our weekly **News & Notes** email by completing the visitor card or go to the website: 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!

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 –**Today 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.

Today! Stewardship Sunday, November 19, we will dedicate our pledges for 2024! Plan to stay after worship to celebrate our *Choose Generosity* campaign with lunch together.

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.

