

First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2024



Angels bring food to Jesus in the wilderness, opaque watercolor, ink, color and gold on paper
The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Ohio
Muhammad Sharif (c. 1600) India

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. Christa Fuller Burns

JOYS AND CONCERNS

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Shall We Gather at the River*

John Barr
(b. 1938)

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sondra Watkins

We are invited to set apart this season, in order to think about how we live and what is important to us.

May we remember God's truth and may we try to walk in the way God leads us.

When the world around us loudly urges us to follow other gods...

We dedicate ourselves to trusting God's way of steadfast love and peace.

***HYMN 375** *Shall We Gather at the River*

HANSON PLACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we admit that sometimes we forget our baptisms and how that water streamed down our foreheads, claiming us as your beloved forever. Because we forget whose we are, we do things that are not worthy of our calling. We forget our friends, we ignore those who need our help, we are silent when we should speak, and we take for granted the precious time that we have. And, sometimes when we are in the wilderness times of our lives, we forget that you are always there and that there are angels all around us. Forgive us and put our feet back on the path towards wholeness and hope. Amen.

KYRIE 577 *Lord, Have Mercy*

KYRIE ELEISON
(Reindorf)

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

***GLORIA 215** *What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDRIOUS LOVE

verse 3

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!**

***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

HEBREW BIBLE READING Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

PSALTER READING Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

For the wisdom we find in this ancient story,
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Seeing the Wilderness for What It Is

Rev. Burns

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 783** *When We Are Tested*

ANGELS OF HEALING

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 *Servants of Your Peace*

Ephrem Feeley

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lenten Creative Prayer Project - Lent begins with an invitation to repentance: rending our hearts as we tell the truth about who we are, letting go of that which doesn't serve us, and lightening our load for the journey ahead. You are invited to come forward to tear a piece of paper as a sign of your repentance. Then, add it to the collage that will be used in our ongoing prayer project. Please try to keep similar colors together.

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 775** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

WALK WITH ME

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Hyfrydol"*

John Barr
(b. 1938)

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Christa Fuller Burns, *Pastor Emerita*

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

The Chancel Choir

Sondra Watkins, *Liturgist*

John Colmers, *Elder of the Day*

Nancy Gulsoy and Audrey Trapp, *Ushers*

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.

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."

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00 a.m. on Zoom Wednesdays - Join Cat most Wednesdays to reflect on the coming Sunday's lectionary passage. All are welcome! Meeting ID: 818 8551 6595; passcode: 716331

The Forum: Faith formation gathering for youth and adults, *Sundays, 9:15 in the Woodmont Room and on Zoom.*

February Forum

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Here we'll look at essential questions in the Christian faith and explore what's next for Christianity. The class will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. Jerrett L. Hansen, a retired pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

2/25 - Stories of Creation

March Forum

The Power of Ritual: Turning Everyday Activities into Soulful Practices, by Casper ter Kuile

3/03 Connecting with Self

3/11 Connecting with Others

3/18 Connecting with Nature

3/25 Connecting with Transcendence

Join us in the Forum as we read, reflect, and experiment with seeing our everyday lives as filled with potential for spiritual practices and meaning. If you would like us to order a book for you, please email the church office at seekfaith@faithpcbalt.org.

Children's Sunday School On Sunday mornings, 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.

ROPAGOFYA 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. The next gathering will be **Today, February 18 at Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena** from 3:30-5pm. Bring \$8.00 for skate rental and entrance fee.

Lenten Small Groups forming now! If you would like to join a small group to read and reflect on Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's book, *Good Enough, 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, please let Cat know, catfaithchurchbalt@gmail.com. Written gently and with humor, *Good Enough* is permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix—and some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better.

Book Club: Our February book to read and discuss will be *His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis. His Excellency is a magnificent work, indispensable to an understanding not only of its subject but also of the nation he brought into being. We will meet at Paula & Peter Burger's home (36 Whitfield Road, 21210) on Tuesday February 27th at 7PM.

Save the Date! The next **Presbytery Gathering is at Faith** on Thursday, March 14 from 10 till noon. If you would like to volunteer to help with hospitality, please let us know.

Spirituality Retreat

February 24, 2024, 930am-2:30pm

Faith Presbyterian Church
5400 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21239

Nurture Creativity, Connect, Restore



Join us for an immersive day of renewal and spiritual exploration.
Connect and rejuvenate through meditation, music, healing modalities, and nature.

Light breakfast 9:30-10 am

- 10-11 Theta Healing Workshop - Jill Featherston, Theta Grace
- 11-12 Connecting through Music - Teporah Bilezikian
- 12-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 – 1:30 Nature Immersion led by Natureworx (dress for outdoors)
- 1:30-2:30 Wheels of Light Chakra Workshop - Scott McGill

Mindful art, massage, and select vendors available all day

Free! Register Here

