

Sunday, March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Prodigal Son, Serigraph print
John August Swanson (1938-2021) American

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 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Robert Hobby
(b. 1962)

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lauren Hill

God is an open door with a smooth threshold
Inviting, beckoning us: come in, come in!
God is a parent with open arms,
waiting to accept us before we even turn to meet their welcome.
So come, and don't delay!
Come, and find where you fit in God's expansive grace.

***HYMN 435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the lost and the least, we admit that though we lament the world as it is, we hesitate to lend our hands to transform it. You call us to be reconciled to one another, but we resist reaching across the aisle. You call us to seek the good of all, but we focus so often on our own wants, our own needs. Forgive us! Give us courage and strength to tend to the needs and wounds of our community, and to work for change, beginning with ourselves. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

KYRIE 467 *Give Us Light*

JYOTHI DHO



3) Give us peace; give us peace; give us peace, O Lord.
5) Give us grace; give us grace; give us grace, O Lord.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

***GLORIA 654** *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you...
... and also with you.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MOMENT WITH FAITH KIDS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

MUSIC *Come, Ye Disconsolate*

Penny Rodriguez
(b. 1958)

GOSPEL READING Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.''" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I

might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

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

SERMON

The Road Home

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 418** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

MINUTE FOR MISSION *One Great Hour of Sharing*

Lauren Hill

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 *Sheep May Safely Graze from Cantata No. 208*

J.S. Bach
arr. Stainton de B. Taylor
(1903-1975)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Interactive Lenten Prayer Project: *God calls us to the ministry of reconciliation. If there is a relationship in your life that is broken and in need of mending, or a place where turmoil and violence rule – lift up the name of that person or place, or even just an initial symbolizing your prayers for peace and healing, by coming forward to write that name or initial on a circle. Leave it as an offering, to be transformed into a mobile to adorn our sanctuary.*

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 765** *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

ARGENTINA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, *Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Chancel Choir
Lauren Hill, *Liturgist*
Laurie Newton, *Deacon of the Day*
Yvonne Davis, *Usher*
Dawn Shirey, *Zoom Moderator & PowerPoint*
Andy Fuller, *Audio/Camera*

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! Children are welcome in worship, but if you need it, there is a caregiver in the nursery, just outside the door nearest the pulpit.

On the first Sunday of the month, children are encouraged to stay in worship for the whole service, to share in the sacrament of communion. Church school for K-2 and 3-5 grades will be held all other Sundays following the Time with Faith Kids in the classrooms on the third floor.

When in the sanctuary, children six and under are invited to worship in the **Prayground** at the front of the sanctuary. The Prayground has quiet activities and books to keep hands busy so ears can listen. 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.

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
Our democracy

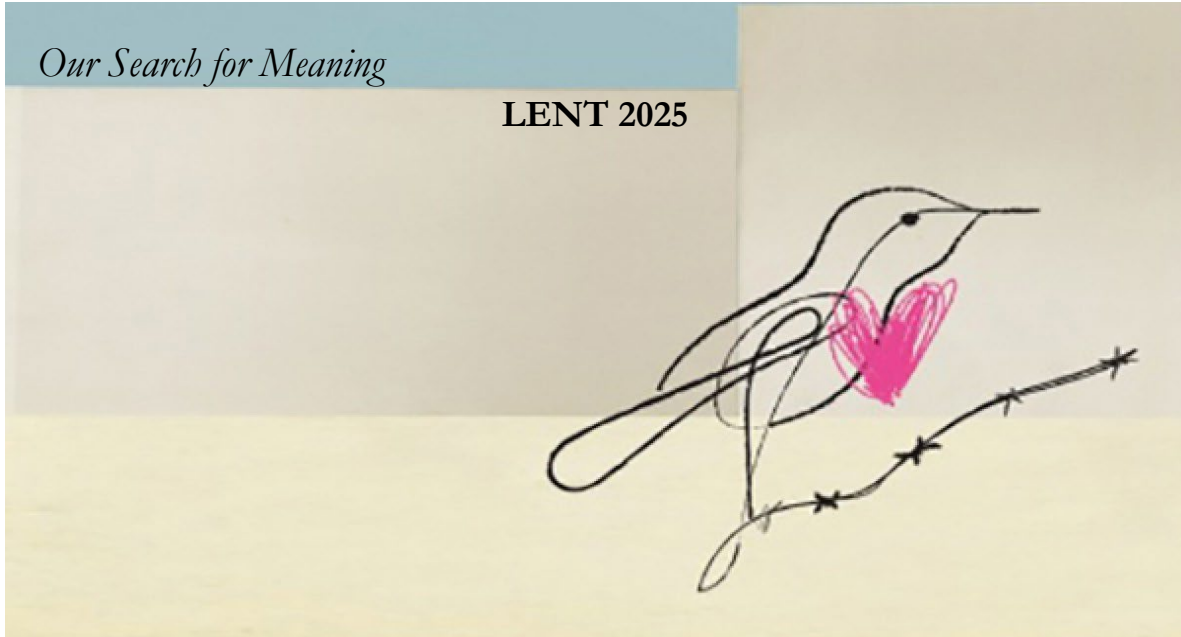
The people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Sudan,
The Democratic Republic of the Congo, and all
those who suffer from war and disaster.

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00 a.m. on Zoom Wednesdays - Join Cat Wednesdays to reflect on the coming Sunday's lectionary passage. All are welcome! Meeting ID: 830 8730 5092; passcode: 033954.

The Forum: Faith formation gathering for youth and adults, *Sundays, 9:15 in the Woodmont Room and on Zoom*. Meeting ID: 829 2802 1217, passcode: 551345. Next Sunday, April 6 we will explore the Easter story as it appears in the four gospels, led by Rev. Cat Goodrich.

Book Club is reading *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey. A singular new novel from the Betty Trask Prize-winner Samantha Harvey, *Orbital* is an eloquent meditation on space and life on our planet through the eyes of six astronauts circling the earth in 24 hours. Described by the New York Times as “Ravishingly Beautiful.” The next meeting is on **Tuesday April 22, 7PM at the Nesbitt's** (3913 Juniper Road, 21218). Everyone is welcome.

Bring your rinsed **aluminum cans to raise money for Haiti!** Bring aluminum cans (the change in metal prices means we can no longer accept foil) to church on Sundays and drop them into a designated bin in the Narthex or in Hyde Hall. The cans are sold as scrap metal and the funds sent to two orphanages in Haiti, the Kay Papa Nou Orphanage and Unity House. Have something larger? Call David Rawle at 410-382-4571. Questions? Call David or Lori Rawle at 410-980-6561. Your contributions have made a big difference, and the project coordinators are grateful for your ongoing support! **THANK YOU!**



A Lenten Bible Study “Unfinished Confessions” is offered by the Dismantling Racism Team of the Presbytery of Baltimore *Wednesday, April 2 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.* a time of prayer, listening and reflection upon congregational stories of past injustices and broken relationships. How do we hear these sacred stories from our own history? What might we learn about our own spiritual journeys and our collective journey as a community of faith? On Zoom, register with QR Code:



Our Lenten theme is "Our search for meaning," inspired by *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl, which chronicles his experiences as a Holocaust survivor and identifies ways people respond and find purpose even in the midst of deplorable, horrific circumstances. If you would like to read this book and gather to reflect on it, a group will meet at **6:30 PM on Wednesday, April 9 at Paula & Peter Burger's home**, 36 Whitfield Road.

HOLY WEEK at Faith

Palm Sunday - Gather at 10:20 in the courtyard for our Procession of Palms! We will begin with a blessing for Holy Week at 10:25, then our procession will depart at 10:30.

Maundy Thursday - Join us for worship around the table in Hyde Hall at 6:00 on Thursday, April 17. We will share a soup supper and break bread together as we remember the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples.

Good Friday - The Dismantling Racism Team of the Presbytery will hold a worship service at noon at St. John United Church in Columbia, MD. Rev. Cat Goodrich and Elder Charese Jordan Moore will offer a dialogue sermon based on the history of Faith and Knox Presbyterian Churches. The service will also be livestreamed.

Holy Saturday - Our Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday morning, April 19, at 10:30 AM in the courtyard at Faith! Join us and bring friends!

Easter Sunday - Join us for a congregational brunch to celebrate the joy of Easter at 10:00 in Jackson Lounge, followed by worship at 10:45 - a musical prelude with brass will begin at 10:30.