



Wisdom of the Universe, acrylic on canvas; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada  
Christi Belcourt (b. 1966) Métis Canadian

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent

## FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 1, 2019

10:45 a.m.

*Welcome to Faith Church; we are glad you are here.  
Childcare for infants and preschoolers is provided all morning in the nursery,  
the second room on the right through the door by the pulpit.*

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

### Words of Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Mary B. Speers

**Gathering** *Today we'll use this time to learn some of the songs we'll be singing.*

**Prelude** *Wachet auf!* BWV 645  
(Sleepers Awake!)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

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

**Introit** People, Look East!

French Folk Melody

### ♫ **Call to Worship**

**Members of the PNC**

#### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Voice One: In no great culture of the world is hospitality more important than in the Middle East. The obligation of a host to a guest, whether invited or uninvited, is sacred.

Voice Two: We remember all the migrants and refugees of the world, throughout history and in our own time. We remember that Mary and Joseph fled with baby Jesus to another country, to escape the violence of King Herod.

Voice One: Today we pray for all those who seek food, shelter, and peace in our country, our city, and our neighborhoods.

Voice Two: We pray that we always welcome every guest, invited or uninvited, as if that guest were Jesus himself.

*the first candle is lit*

Both Voices: We light this candle to show our guests the way.

**All Sing: People, look east, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.**

♫ **Hymn 104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Paula Burger**

**God of the future, you are coming in glory to fill your world with goodness. We confess that in all our preparations for another Christmas, we are still unprepared for you. Where we might be opening our hearts and our lives to receive you, we are busy filling them up, as though we did not really believe you were coming. Help our unbelief: give us grace to leave open our unfilled places, so that when our guest comes, they become places of honor, and we are ready with a joyful welcome in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

One: ...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

♫ **Sung Response 113** *refrain*

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

♠ **The Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you**

**TO PROCLAIM AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD**

**Moment with Faith Kids**

♠ **Sung Prayer for Illumination 92** *verse 1*

WAITING

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

**Lesson** Matthew 24:36-44

*page 27*

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Sermon**

"Nothing to Fear"

**Rev. Speers**

♠ **Hymn 87** Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

**OFFERING**

**Offertory** Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Dale Grotenhuis  
(1931-2012)

**Robert Gardner, tenor**

Comfort, now my people; speak of peace: so says our Lord God.  
*As a deer in want of water, so I long for you, O Lord.*

Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow's load.  
*All my heart and being falter, thirsting for your living word.*

Cry out to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
*When shall I behold your face? When shall I receive your grace?*

Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over, doo, doo.  
*When shall I, your praises voicing, come before you with rejoicing?*

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
*O my soul, why are you grieving, why disquieted in me?*

Calling all to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here.  
*Put your hope in God, believing he will still your refuge be.*

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away!  
*I again shall praise his grace for the comfort of his face;*

Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
*He will show his help and favor, for he is my God and Savior.*

Then make straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.  
*Send your light and truth to lead me: send them forth to be my guide.*

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.  
*To your mountain let them bring me, to the place where you reside.*

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
*Then, O God, I will come near and before your throne appear,*

And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.  
*To my Savior praises bringing with the harp and joyful singing.*

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising to the glorious Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ who is to come!**

♪ **Dedication of Self and Substance**

**Loving Source of all power and grace, follow these gifts with your blessing, breathe into us the spirit of your holy child Jesus, and fill us with such love and awe and delight that we become a blessing to everyone we meet, in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**Invitation to the Table: Words of Institution**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

How can we thank you God?

...with saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

**Sanctus 552**

LAND OF REST

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, Holy One, for Jesus...

... with thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**Mystery of Faith 553**

LAND OF REST

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again!**

*the prayer continues...*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Breaking of Bread and Pouring of Wine

**During the Distribution 466** Come and Fill Our Hearts  
*all sing*

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!**

### Communion (by intinction)

*So that all may be welcome at the table of Christ, please know that gluten-free, cubed bread is available on each tray, and that all "wine" is unfermented grape juice. Please come to the front of the sanctuary via the center aisle, take the bread and dip it into the chalice, then partake and return to your seat by way of a side aisle.*

### Prayer

**Hymn 535** Bless the Lord, O My Soul

BLESS THE LORD

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

**And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

**And forget not all God's benefits.**

*prayer continues with...*

**God our help, we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your holy child Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Christ and pledge ourselves to serve you and the world you so love, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.**

## TO GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE IN CHRIST'S NAME

🕯 **Hymn 352** My Lord! What a Morning

MY LORD! WHAT A MORNING

🕯 **Charge and Benediction**

**Choral Response**

**Postlude** Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter  
(b. 1939)

### Leading Worship Today

**Rev. Mary B. Speers**, *Interim Pastor*  
**Dr. Samuel Springer**, *Minister of Music*  
**Chancel Choir**  
The **PNC**, *Advent Candlelighters*

# FAITH FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Book Club** *Monday, December 2 - 7:00 at Nesbitts* **Note Change!**

Book Club has chosen New York Times Bestseller *Becoming Nicole* by **Amy Ellis Nutt**. The inspiring true story of transgender actor and activist Nicole Maines, whose identical twin brother, Jonas, and ordinary American family join her on an extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

## **Adult Forum** *Sundays 9:15 – Woodmont Room*

December 8 & 15 – Advent Bible Study, the Enigmatic: John the Baptist.

Led by **Rev. Mary Speers**

## **UCAS Christmas Concert** *Saturday, December 14 – 7:00 at Faith*

The Urban Choral Arts Society will present a Christmas concert at Faith Church with works from Handel's *Messiah* and Ray's *Gospel Mass*. Tickets Adults \$15, Children \$5.

## **Encore Concerts**

Come support Faith choir members who sing in the Towson Encore Chorale. They will present the following concerts:

Towson Presbyterian – December 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center – December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

St Katherine Drexel Church – December 15 at 3:00 p.m.

## **Wednesday Bible Study**

Join Faith every Wednesday at 11:00 in the Woodbourne Room for a discussion of the next Sunday's lesson. No preparation is required.

## **Nursery Attendant Needed**

A volunteer is needed each Sunday to cover the nursery. See **Robin Nemser** or put your name on the sign-up sheet by the nursery door.

## **Walter P. Carter School**

The remaining Walter P. Carter Family/Community Engagement Nights are as follows:

December 17: Holiday Celebration and Movie Night

January 21: Parent-Teacher Conference Night

February 18: African American History, Culture, and Talent Exposition

March 17: "Know Your Rights" (when interacting with law enforcement) and Self-Defense Night

April 21: Holistic Wellness Night

May 19: STEAM and Science Fair Night

All are Tuesday nights, and the time is 5:30-7:30. The school is located at 1101 Winston Ave. We do not yet know the dates of the planning sessions, but we will pass them along once we know. If you are interested in getting involved, please email **Karen Meyers** ([karencmeyers@gmail.com](mailto:karencmeyers@gmail.com)) or let Diane know.

## **Hands of Faith Table**

The Deacons are introducing a new shopping opportunity at the Advent Festival in Dec. 8. We will be collecting themed baskets for an Advent Silent Auction. We would love to have more basket donations. Themes such as cheese and crackers, manicures, movie night, game night, etc. would be welcome. The sky's the limit. Have your basket ready and at church by Dec. 6. See Robin Nemser with questions. The auction money will be added to our Hands of Faith funds!

## **An Advent of Giving**

Faith's annual Advent Festival is right around the corner! At "An Advent of Giving," we will pass out Advent calendars which focus on the needs of the CARES Pantry as well as raise funds for Deacons' Hands of Faith to help support many of our church's missions.

Hands of Faith supported:

Purchase of a much-needed new refrigerator for the CARES Pantry.

Thanksgiving dinner, Lasagna Bingo Night, and a Game Night for the residents of Harford House.

Large-print devotional booklets for those on the Deacons' Care list.

At the Advent Fest, you can share a good meal with beautiful Christmas desserts, maybe play a game or two, and purchase handmade Christmas gifts and cards; halves and chocolate covered pecans are also available.

At the table with the red plaid tablecloth & Christmas tree, purchase special alternative gifts of cows, sheep, goats, chickens, bees, and fresh water from Heifer International.

Please plan to come and have a festive time with your Faith friends!

### **CARES Pantry**

Your donation, large or small, of any non-perishable food will make a difference. On behalf of GEDCO CARES' clients, thank you for your continued outpouring of generosity. Food donations may be placed in the baskets outside the sanctuary doors. Please continue to donate to the Bread Fund; your gifts are used to purchase fresh produce.

### **Save the Date**

Cuba Partnership Scholarship Fundraiser, "Evening at the Paladar," Saturday January 25, 2020, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Music, Authentic Cuban Meal, Entertainment, Silent Auction, Raffle, Intergenerational Event. For more information, see **Audrey Trapp** or **Mike Billings**.

### **Please pray for our homebound members:**

Betty Bunce

Beverly Baker

Nan Pohl

Nancy Stutzer

### **Please Pray for Our PNC**

Karen Burd

Paula Burger

Neil Nemser

Pat Nesbitt

Mike Shirey

Judy Sperling

Natalie Wallace

Mozella Williams

## **Faith Presbyterian Church's Ministry**

**Rev. Mary Barrett Speers**, *Interim Pastor*  
maryfaithchurchbalt@gmail.com - 443-893-3717

**Rev. Doris Cowan**, *Parish Associate*  
dw.cowan@verizon.net - 410-444-4731

**Rev. Bill Millen**, *Parish Associate*  
bill.millen@comcast.net - 443-632-6047

**Dr. Samuel Springer**, *Minister of Music*  
widor1@yahoo.com - 410-483-0808

**HANDEL'S  
MESSIAH**

**CHRISTMAS  
URBAN CHORAL  
ARTS SOCIETY**

**RAY'S  
GOSPEL  
MASS**

**WITH**



**WWW.URBANCHORALARTS.ORG**

**DECEMBER 14, 2019**

**7PM**

Faith Presbyterian Church  
5400 Loch Raven Blvd  
Baltimore, Maryland 21239

**Tickets \$15 Adults 17+ || Children \$5**