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[www.FaithWorksHere.com](http://www.FaithWorksHere.com)

Sunday, December 28, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

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Accommodations: Faith provides large print hymnals and Bibles, magnifiers, printed versions of the sermon, FM wireless assistive listening devices, and noise-cancelling headphones for your use located on the white bookshelf at the Sanctuary entrance. Please feel free to use what you need and return. If you have any questions, please ask the welcome hosts at the Sanctuary entrance or contact Jennifer Young, Faith's Accessibility Coordinator, at [young.jennifer@gmail.com](mailto:young.jennifer@gmail.com) to request any other accommodations for future worship services.

## WE GATHER

Centering

Prelude: *The Cradle* (1892)

Ann Bartlow, organ  
Alexander Gretchaninov, 1864 - 1965  
arr. David Paxton

Welcome

Jane Rall, Leadership Board member

Call to Worship

Arvina Dalaya Gadre, Liturgist

ONE: Look! The Lamb of God is among us.

**ALL: We look, and sometimes we do not see.**

ONE: Still the Spirit moves,  
still the voice cries in the wilderness.

**ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord—  
in our hearts, in our world, in our living.**

Confession and Pardon

Prayer of Confession

**All: God of hidden presence,  
we confess that we often miss You.  
You are in the neighbor we ignore,  
in the stranger we fear,  
in the quiet we avoid.**

You are here, and we are distracted.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Slow us down, open our eyes,  
and give us hearts that recognize Your nearness.

(Silent reflection)

Words of Pardon

Arvina Dalaya Gadre

ONE: Hear the good news:  
Christ has come, Christ is here, Christ will come again.  
You are known, loved, and forgiven.  
Open your eyes—the Lamb of God walks among you.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

## WORD

Pick a Christmas Carol

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

Scripture Reading: John 1:19-27

Arvina Dalaya Gadre

*Today's reading can be found on page #92 in the New Testament  
of the pew Bible.*

A Message for All

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*The Kids Who Heard the Good News*, a story based on Luke 2,  
from *The Book of Belonging: Bible Stories from Kind and  
Contemplative Kids* by Mariko Clark

Pick a Christmas Carol (or 2)

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

## WONDER

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Offertory Prayer

Arvina Dalaya Gadre

## WHAT NOW?

Prayers of the People

Pilgrim's Perspective    Gordon Henley, Faith UMC Foundation, chair

\*Hymn #251 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

Sending Forth

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Postlude: *Joy To The World*

Ann Bartlow, organ

Lani Smith, living



## VISITORS



If you are new to Faith United Methodist Church, welcome! We encourage you to scan the QR code to let us know that you joined us today. If you would rather, you may complete a blue guest card that is available from a welcome host, then drop it in the offering chest.

## OFFERING

We are not passing an offering plate at this time. An offering box has been placed on the welcome table in the Narthex. You may also scan the QR code to give online.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

*Sundays at 5:00 p.m.*

Middle and high school youth will not be meeting tonight nor on January 4th. Looking ahead, the youth will meet in the new year on Sunday, January 11th. For questions, contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator, at [ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com](mailto:ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com).

## CHURCH OFFICE

The Church office will be closed both Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day and Friday, January 2. The office will reopen on Monday, January 5.

## PREPARING FOR COMMUNION

*Sunday, January 4*

Please bring non-perishables with you to worship next Sunday, January 4. On the Sundays we share the Communion feast (usually the first Sunday of the month), we also share our abundance with others. Items can be left in the shopping basket in the narthex. Your donations help keep the Blessing Box stocked.

Click the button below for a list of suggested food items. Toiletries and feminine products are greatly appreciated too. The Blessing Box is a community effort so no one person is responsible. In addition to donations, taking the initiative to move items into the storage closet near the office or directly into the Blessing Box is always appreciated.

## SAVE THE DATE

*Saturday, January 24*

Mark your calendars and plan to dream with other members of Faith on Saturday, January 24 from 10 - 2 p.m. We'll hear about some dreams already brewing and spend time naming what we care deeply about, where we think we can make a difference, and how we want to be a vibrant church for our greater Rockville community. We are hoping to involve kids and youth and those plans are still taking shape. Stay tuned for more information, but plan to join the conversation!

## QUARTERS FOR KIDS

Faith Church is collecting quarters during the Advent season to help The Heifer Project ([heifer.org](http://heifer.org)) provide families with chickens and ducks that lay eggs, honeybees that increase the yields of fruit and vegetable gardens, goats that give milk, and sheep that produce wool. Donations may be placed in the offering chest in the Narthex any Sunday through January 4th or given electronically on the Faith website using the "Give" button. Our "pocket change" can provide sustainable food sources and warm clothing for disadvantaged families.





## **SERVING US TODAY**

Altar Guild for December: Nancy Kneisly

Audio Visual Volunteer: Debbie Spriggs, Andy Basford

Congregational Welcome: Jane Rall

Fellowship Hosts: Arvina Dalaya Gadre

Liturgist: Arvina Dalaya Gadre

Nursery Caregiver: Julia Evans, Tessa Ricketts

Online Host: Mary Stark

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Welcome Team Host: Bill Beisner

## **FAITH UMC STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor | Ann Bartlow, Organist | André Coleman, Tenor  
Section Leader | Keshika Dias, Facilities Manager | Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator | Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture | Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff | Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator | Kim Webster, Finance Manager | Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director

# Unto Glory

## A PROPHETIC PILGRIMAGE



December 21 – John 1:19-34

*“I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel, John testified. “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”*

With humility, John baptized Jesus, declaring him as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

### Consider:

- When the authorities questioned John about who he was, he replied he was “a voice crying in the wilderness.” How does this response reflect John’s identity and mission?
- What is the significance, for you, of Jesus being described as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world?
- Remember your baptism. How does being a part of a church shape your understanding of how you live your faith?

### On a sacred journey (Psalm 123:1-2)

*“The psalmists tell us, We lift up our eyes to the Lord, who is enthroned in the heavens. We look to God.*

This week, we see the Lord by noting God’s presence in our lives with a photograph. Using your phone, snap a photo or two of where God is active in the world. Where do you see God’s beauty? God’s love? Take note, how does God travel with you this week?