

Unto Glory

A Prophetic Pilgrimage

Advent 2025



Faith United Methodist Church
301-881-1881 | office@FaithWorksHere.com
www.FaithWorksHere.com

Sunday, November 30, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Advent

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 to request any other accommodations for future worship services.

WE GATHER

Centering

Prelude: *Prélude* from *24 Pièces en Style Libre*, Op 31 No. 5, 1913-14
Ann Bartlow, organ
Louis Vierne, 1870-1937

Welcome Joseph Dowd

Call to Worship Brian Jones
Leadership Board member, Liturgist

ONE: Come, people of hope—for even in the heat of the fire,
God's presence is near.

ALL: We will not bow to fear. We will not yield to despair.

ONE: The flames may rise,
but the light of Christ rises higher still.

**ALL: Our hearts are steadfast. Our hope is sure.
For God is with us in the fire and beyond it.**

Confession and Pardon Brian Jones

ONE: God of steadfast hope,
we confess that we have bowed to lesser gods—
comfort, convenience, control.

**ALL: We have forgotten how to trust You when the heat is on.
We have sought safety instead of faithfulness.**

One: Forgive us, Holy One.

**All: Remind us that hope is forged in the fire,
that courage grows in the company of Your presence.
Make us bold again to stand firm in love,
and to trust the promise that never fades.
Amen.**

Passing the Peace

Wreath Lighting: HOPE

Ashley, Birkir, Emma & Julia Jónsson

WORD

Anthem: *I Shall Know Him When He Comes* (1991) Chancel Choir
Dr. Michael Wu, Director
Ann Bartlow, piano
Douglas E. Wagner, b. 1952

Lyrics (adapted by Charlotte Lee from a 15th-century text):

I shall know Him when He comes, | not with sound of pipe or
drum, | but by the holy harmony | which now His coming makes
in me. || He shall wear no royal robe, | or a crown of precious
gold, | but He my Lord, my King shall be | always, ever be there
for me. || He shall not in castle, warm, | live in splendor, safe
from harm. | But in a manger, crude He'll sleep, | warmed by the
breath of cows and sheep. || Come, Lord Jesus, tarry not. | Find
in me a resting spot. | My heart is open, come dwell within. | Let
life be born in me again. || By the holy harmony which his
coming makes in me, | I shall know Him when He comes.

Scripture: Daniel 3:1, 8-30

Joseph Dowd, Brian Jones,
Pam Kessler, Suzanne Smedberg
and Jennifer Young

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Message

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*Hymn #210: *All Earth Is Waiting*

Congregation
Chancel Choir Ann
Bartlow, organ

WONDER

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Offertory Prayer

Brian Jones

WHAT NOW?

Prayers of the People

Pilgrim's Perspective

Nathan Hedges

*Hymn #206: *I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light* Congregation
Chancel Choir
Ann Bartlow, organ

Sending Forth

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Postlude: *Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland* (Savior of the Nations, Come)

Ann Bartlow, organ

1. Setting from *10 Orgel Postludien zum Kirchenjahr* (Ten Organ Postludes for the Church Year, 1956) arranged by Paul Kickstat, 1893-1959
2. Setting from *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book, BWV599, 1708-1717), Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

A PILGRIMAGE WITH THE PROPHETS

What is a pilgrimage? From Compostela to Canterbury, it is an intentional journey to a revered place. There may be obstacles—boulders to climb over or rushing streams to ford—but they are part of the journey. To Christians, Advent is a spiritual pilgrimage that leads us, like the Wise Men, to the stable, the manger and the Baby Jesus.

At Faith Church, we started our own pilgrimage, choosing as our guide the words of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and John. We explore the wisdom of the prophets as we travel spiritually through Advent to Christmas Eve.

Have you taken a pilgrimage? We will be inviting you to share your recollections with us, as we follow our sacred journey.



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.



ADVENT STUDY

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at N. Bethesda UMC

This year, Faith UMC we have been organized into "hubs" with other United Methodist congregations in our area. Our hub partners include North Bethesda, Rockville, Jerusalem–Mount Pleasant, and Millian Memorial United Methodist Churches. The focus of this first year together is simple yet meaningful: to build relationships. We are committed to getting to know one another not only pastor to pastor or leader to leader, but person to person, strengthening the bonds that unite our communities in faith and service.

We are excited to begin our shared work as a hub by offering an Advent study. We gather for consecutive Tuesdays for a brief time of Taizé-style worship and to explore *Voices of Advent: The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope* by Matt Skinner at N. Bethesda UMC (10100 Old Georgetown Rd.)

A different pastor from our hub leads each week's discussion. This is an in-person only opportunity to meet members from our partner congregations, share in worship and study, and root ourselves in hope during this sacred season. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Laura. You can buy the book on-line at Cokesbury or Amazon. It is available as an eBook as well. If you are having difficulty securing a copy, please be in touch with Valerie in the church office.

QUARTERS FOR KIDS

Faith Church is collecting quarters during the Advent season to help The Heifer Project (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 families.



ANGEL TREE

We are excited to announce that Faith UMC's annual Angel Tree gift drive has partnered once again with Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. MCCCH has created a wish list specifically for our congregation to help us uplift their families this holiday season. As we all continue to enjoy Thanksgiving weekend and look ahead to Christmas, please consider sponsoring an individual or family using the sign-up link in Friday's What's Working at Faith. For those that prefer not to use the on-line sign-up, ornaments with wish list items will also be available on the tree at the front of the sanctuary. All gifts should be returned to the church office or dropped off in Room 102 by **Friday, December 12th**, so that our youth can wrap them on Sunday, December 14th. If you have any questions, please contact Alisa Dowd at jandadowd@gmail.com.



PREPARING FOR COMMUNION

Sunday, December 7, a reminder to bring non-perishables with you to worship. 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.

Toiletries and feminine products are greatly appreciated. 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 closet of the vestibule outside the office or directly into the Blessing Box is always appreciated.



TRY SOMETHING NEW! Serve on one of our ministry teams.

- **Welcome Hosts:** We need volunteers for December (including Sunday, Dec. 7), January, and February. New volunteers are paired with an experienced host—just bring a smile! Sign up in the Narthex next to the Flower calendar.
- **Nursery:** Our nursery is a child's first step toward knowing Christ. To meet Safe Sanctuary requirements (two unrelated adults), we need volunteers from 9:45–11:15 a.m. in room 210 with Tessa Ricketts. Volunteers must complete online Safe Sanctuary training if they haven't already. To help, contact: office@faithworkshere.com.

BENEFITS OF DONATING STOCK

Deadline: December 1, 2025

If you've owned stock for more than a year and it has increased in value, donating it directly to the church can be a tax-smart way to give if you itemize deductions. You can deduct the fair market value of the stock and avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation. If the stock is held for less than a year, your deduction is limited to what you originally paid for it. By donating appreciated stock instead of selling it first, your gift can go up to 20% further—thanks to the tax savings. Always consult your tax advisor to see if this option is right for you. For more information on how to donate, contact Kim Webster, Finance Manager at kwebster@faithworkshere.com.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1, 2025 TO DONATE STOCK TO GET END OF YEAR TAX CREDIT.

SERVING US TODAY

Altar Guild for November: Helen McMunn, JoAnn Castagnola

Audio Visual Volunteer: Brian Hahs, Jason Spriggs

Congregational Welcome: Joseph Dowd

Fellowship Hosts: Sara Romeyn, Tim Evans

Liturgist: Brian Jones

Money Counters: Carol Dismukes, Jim Johnston

Nursery Caregivers: Nancy Hart, Tessa Ricketts

Online Host: Lloydie Zaiser

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Sunday School Teachers:

- Elementary School Teachers: Ann Coppersmith, Dawn Adair Johnson, Sally Stolz
- High School Teachers: Kristen Wayne, Ryan Miller

Welcome Team Hosts: Arvina Dalaya Gadre, 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



FAITH UMC ADVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, Nov. 23
10:00 a.m. Reign of Christ Jeremiah 29:1, 4:14

Tuesday, Nov. 25
7:00-8:30 p.m. Advent Study with our Hub Partners Four Tuesdays: Dec. 2, 9 & 16
at N. Bethesda UMC

Sunday, Nov. 30
10:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent: HOPE Daniel 3:1, 8-30

Sunday, Dec. 7
10:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE Ezekiel 37:1-14

Saturday, Dec. 13
4:30 p.m. Messy Christmas Luke 2:8-12

Sunday, Dec. 14
10:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent: JOY Isaiah 55:1-13

Sunday, Dec. 21
10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE John 1:1-18

7:00 p.m. The Longest Night A worship service held in the Advent season around the
winter solstice - designed for those experiencing grief
and loss. We offer a space for comfort and hope during a
time of year that can be difficult for some.

Wednesday, Dec. 24
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve: Family service Luke 2:1-14

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve: Music begins at 7:30 p.m. Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, Dec. 28
10:00 a.m. First Sunday after Christmas John 1:19-34

Sunday, Jan. 4
10:00 a.m. Epiphany John 1:35-51

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ADVENT AT FAITH: November 30, 2025

Unto Glory A PROPHETIC PILGRIMAGE



November 30 – Daniel 3:1, 8-30

"Then, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it; God will deliver us.'"

Today's Scripture passage is a favorite in children's sermons. But its story of obedience, sacrifice and the saving grace of God have profound significance for people of all ages.

Consider:

- What do you think prompted King Nebuchadnezzar to build the statue? What do his actions reveal about his pride and priorities?
- In your opinion, who was the fourth figure in the fiery furnace and what did this person represent in the story?
- What golden-statue temptations or fiery-furnace trials are you facing? Where or how do you feel God's presence?

On a sacred journey (John 18:36-37)

"Jesus answered Pilate, 'My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'"

Today we begin the first Sunday of Advent by lighting the candle of Hope. For Advent, write a short manifesto or a Creed of Hope. What does it mean to belong to truth? To listen and live by the voice of Jesus? Write out – either succinctly or poetically – what you believe it means to be a part of the kin-dom of God?

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