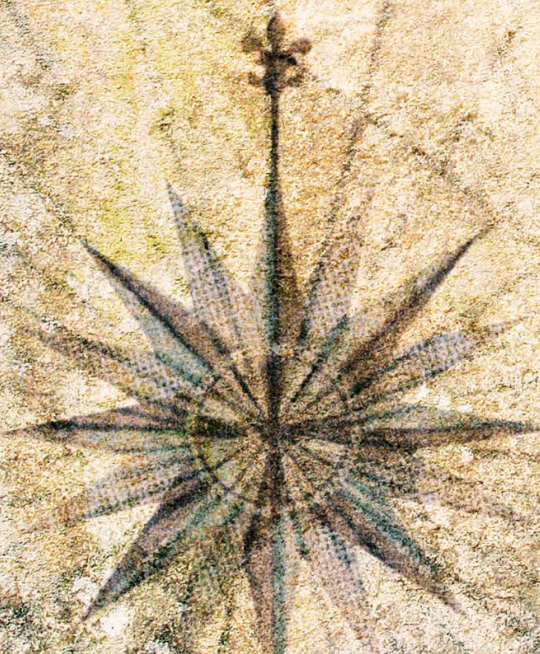


Unto Glory

A Prophetic Pilgrimage

Advent 2025



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

Sunday, November 16, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

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: *Kyrie from Hallelujah!* (2020-2021) Ann Bartlow, piano
Composer: Thomas Keesecker, living

Welcome Sara Romeyn

Call to Worship Sue Walters, Liturgist

One: We come as pilgrims. Some of us are weary, some wondering, some waiting.

All: Yet even now, light is dawning.

One: Isaiah's voice calls out across the centuries:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

All: So we lift our eyes and our hearts.

We come to worship the God who leads us from night into morning, from mourning into dancing.

Confession and Pardon Sue Walters

Passing the Peace

WORD

Anthem: *True Light* (2002) Chancel Choir
Dr. Michael Wu, Director
Ann Bartlow, organ
Composer: Keith Hampton, b. 1957

This little light of mine | I'm gonna let it shine | (3x) Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light. || (refrain) In the beginning | out of the darkness | God created True Light. | He lives in us as True Light. | Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light. || Don't let the light that You've given me die, | And don't desert my mind. | But let the one who serves You | Praise You again and again. | He lives in us as True Light. || refrain || You are the one who judges right from wrong. | Your glory excites no envy. | But let the one who serves You | Praise You again and again. | He lives in us as True Light. || This little light of mine | I'm gonna let it shine. | Everywhere I go, I want the world to know. | God gave the world True Light! || Hold on to the true light | I'm gonna let it shine. Everywhere I go, I want the world to know. | God gave the world True Light! || True Light | I'm gonna let it shine. | Everywhere I go, I want the world to know. | God gave the world True Light! || God's love, God's grace, | I'm gonna let it shine. | Everywhere I go, I want the world to know. | God gave the world True Light! (4x)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Sue Walters

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Message: "Walking in Darkness, Seeing Light" Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*Hymn #435: *O God of Every Nation*

Chancel Choir
Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

WONDER

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Offertory Prayer

Sue Walters

WHAT NOW?

Prayers of the People

Laity Moment

Jim Johnston

*Hymn# 103: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise Chancel Choir
Congregation
Ann Bartlow, organ

Sending Forth

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Postlude: *Introduction-Choral* (from *Suite Gothique*, Op. 25, 1895)

Ann Bartlow, organ
Composer: Léon Boëllman, 1862-1897

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 on November 16, we are starting our own pilgrimage, choosing as our guide the words of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and John. Though Advent begins on November 30, we have timed our departure as pilgrims early, in order to 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.



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor the flowers on the altar, please refer to the sign up calendar in the narthex. Choose a date and write in your name. Complete the brief form in the attached pocket and place in the offering chest or scan the QR code. You may pay online or place a check in the offering chest or submit it to the church office.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL EDITION OF JUICE, JOE, & JUSTICE

Today following worship

We will be welcoming two guests to this month's meeting of Juice, Joe, & Justice held after worship in room 206 (the Youth Room). Christine King is one of the cofounders of the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA). This organization ministers to 102 refugee families, comprised of 405 individuals, who live in Montgomery County. NNIA's 33 members include 12 Christian churches, nine Jewish congregations, and three Islamic groups. Ms. King will be joined by Debra Randall, a member of our sister congregation, Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg. Ms. Randall chairs the Food Committee of NNIA. The guest speakers will provide an overall description of NNIA's activities, with a particular emphasis on its food program. All members of the congregation are invited to join this special edition of JJ&J!

We are continuing our monthly discussions about how our own identity and experiences may impact how we work to expand our love for all our neighbors. Please join us in any month. These events are not a continuing series, so every conversation stands alone. Please note that childcare is available! Teens are welcome in all JJ&J conversations.



YOU ARE INVITED TO SUPPORT GIRL'S EDUCATION IN KENYA

*Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
and Sunday, November 23 from noon - 5:00 p.m.*

Faith friends are invited to a special event to support 400 adolescent girls. The lack of resources in Kenya can often prevent girls from attending school and even dropping out altogether. To help keep them in school, Faith members Bill and Lloydie Zaiser generously provide sanitary napkins and underwear for an entire year. To offset this cost, they are hosting a FINAL sale of beautiful items crafted by over 180 Kenyan female artisans. Begin your holiday shopping early and drop by the Zaiser's home November 22 & 23: 500 Goldsborough Dr., Rockville. Contact Lloydie for additional information at LloydieKenya@gmail.com.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Middle and high school youth are invited to gather at Faith UMC for an evening of activities, food, and fun. Looking ahead, the group will go ice skating at Rockville Town Center on Sunday, November 23—stay tuned for more details. For questions, contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator, at ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com.

THANK YOU FOR THE COATS

Faith recently collected coats, hats, scarves and gloves for an elementary school in Rockville. Additionally, our Outreach team allocated part of their giving budget to purchase extra outerwear for students in grades K–2. The school staff were very grateful to receive them. The administrator of student services mentioned that she passes our church daily on her way to work and that seeing our flag gives her joy. Thank you to everyone who donated!

GET INVOLVED WITH FAITH!

We commit to serve as members of Faith. Here's an important way to serve in the weeks to come:

- **A/V Team:** Even if you know nothing about sound or projection - we will train you. The following volunteer positions are needed to serve once every other month. Do you hear what I hear? manage the sound board; Feel the urge to direct? operate the camera; Control freak? control the projection for those in the sanctuary and online! Contact Jason Spriggs to volunteer and receive training at jason@jasonspriggs.com.
- **Nursery:** Faith sees the nursery as a child's first step toward a relationship with Christ. As infants and toddlers learn to trust those who take care of them, their hearts prepare to have faith in God, who loves and cares for them. As Faith follows Safe Sanctuary policies which requires two unrelated adults working with children, we are asking for volunteers to serve in the Nursery from 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. in room 210. If not already completed, volunteers will need to complete the online Safe Sanctuary training. If you are interested, please contact the church office at office@FaithWorksHere.com

SERVING US TODAY

Altar Guild for November: Helen McMunn, JoAnn Castagnola

Audio Visual Volunteer: Connor Dowd, Debbie Spriggs, Chuck Spencer

Congregational Welcome: Sara Romeyn

Fellowship Hosts: Pam & Ron Kessler

Liturgist: Sue Walters

Money Counters: Jane Rall, Tim Evans

Nursery Caregiver: Celina Schmidt, Tessa Ricketts

Online Host: Lloydie Zaiser

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Sunday School Teachers:

- Elementary School Teachers: Caroline Babula, Dawn Adair Johnson, Jan Spencer, Jane Rall
- Middle School Teachers: Bill Maas, Laura Basford
- High School Teachers: James Hedrick, Ryan Miller

Welcome Team Hosts: Bruce Werber, Arvina Dalaya Gadre

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



November 16 – Isaiah 9:1-7

“People who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

One of the roles of the prophets is to trigger a new imagination. This week, we encourage you to celebrate the promises of God and to broaden your hopes and expectations.

Consider:

- What joy and hope do you see being born in the world around you?
- Some commentators see Isaiah’s words about a “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace,” as a reference to the birth of Jesus. As we approach Advent, consider your current faith journey. What name or title would you give to Jesus?
- In what ways might you serve as a light to the world this week?

On a sacred journey (John 8:12)

Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Using poetry, journaling, doodling or drawing, paints, music and movement, or any other medium you wish, explore and illuminate what the “light of life” means. How can you illustrate it to those who might be curious?