

Traditional Worship – 11:15 am

Advent Reading: Matthew 22:36-40, John 3:16-17

Seoyeong Jang, Dana & Ian Sim

Prelude: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!Arr. Daniel Barta

David Giardiniere, Christopher Kraus, piano

Call to Worship: Responsive ReadingIsaiah 55:6-12 (NIV)

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.

*Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God,
for he will freely pardon.*

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my
ways, declares the Lord.

*As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your
ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return
to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that
it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty
but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and
hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will
clap their hands.

Prayer of Adoration & Invocation..... Pastor Koslowsky

***Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of GloryNo. 218**

**Indicates standing for those who are able*

Corporate Confession of Sin..... People

From "Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession & Celebration" by B. Duguid

Heavenly Father, you are our great King. We are eager to declare our willingness to go where you command. Yet we confess that we are very weak and fickle. We are easily distracted and quick to follow our own sinful hearts instead. As we plan our futures, we think more of our safety, comfort, and financial profit than we do of laying down our lives for the sake of your kingdom.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you did not guard your own interests, but chose to leave the comfort and richness of heaven for us. Teach us what it means to take up our cross daily and follow you. Help us put to death our overwhelming desires to control our own lives in the present and future. Change our selfish hearts. Enlarge them with a love and gratitude toward you so immense and powerful that following you will be our greatest joy and delight. Amen.

Private Prayers of Confession People

Assurance of Pardon Micah 7:18-19 (NIV)

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Special Music: Jesus, Joy of the Highest HeavenKeith/Kristyn Getty

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Children's Choir

***Confession of Faith**

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 26

How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

***Dedication of Tithes & Offerings Pastor Koslowsky**

*Giving: In-person offering box at the back of the sanctuary,
Online at faithwilmington.com/giving or Text dollar amount to 84321*

***Lord’s Prayer People**

Our Father 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.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

***Hymn: O Little Town of BethlehemNo. 201**

Scripture: Micah 5:1-5 pew Bible page 922

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon: The King We Need Rev. Mike Yurik

Prayers of Commitment

Prayer for Those Seeking God:

God, I long to know you in a personal relationship. I desire faith to trust that you are real and that you are found by all who seek you. Please honor my longings by having your Spirit work in me to draw me to you.

Prayer for Those Receiving Christ:

Father, I have offended you by my words, actions and thoughts. There is nothing I can do to reconcile myself to you. I believe the words of Jesus Christ that no one can come to you except through him. I now accept the crucified and risen Christ as the only acceptable payment that could ever be made for my sin. I desire to follow and obey him.

***Hymn: See, amid the Winter’s SnowNo. 199**

***BenedictionHebrews 13:20-21 (ESV)**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

***Postlude**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

218

They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.
Matt. 2:11

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
• seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

REFRAIN
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small ... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Mic. 5:2

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

See, amid the Winter's Snow

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ... being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself. Phil. 2:5, 8

1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
 2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies:
 3. Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say— what's your joy - ful news to - day?
 4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won - drous light;

see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
 he who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
 Where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?
 an - gels sing - ing, 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Sav - ior's birth."

REFRAIN

Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

5. Sacred infant, all divine,
 what a tender love was thine,
 thus to come from highest bliss
 down to such a world as this!

6. Teach, O teach us, holy child,
 by thy face so meek and mild,
 teach us to resemble thee,
 in thy sweet humility.

POINSETTIAS

We are thankful for the flowers that beautify our sanctuary at this time of year. Plants may be taken home following Christmas Eve services.

Donor	In Memory Of:
The Bacher Family	Jon's Mother: Allison Bacher
Tom Blatz	My Parents & Brother
Brent & Carole Burdge	Jim & Jo Burnett Robert, Virginia, & Geraldine Burdge
Bill & Barbara Draper	Loved Ones
Marcla Ellison	My Parents: Clayton & Mary Ellison
Carmen Feil	My Mother: Carmen Santiago
David & Marilee Giardiniere	Rev. Robert & Wilma Gray
Bill Goodwin	My Wife: Rosanna Goodwin
Bill & Debbie Grantham	Our Parents: Donald Rumer, Gary & Helen Grantham Our Brother-in-law: Brian Havertine
Dan & Donna Hall	Daniel Christopher Hall Henry & Mary Hall Walter & Louise Hester
Chuck & Peg Hartzell	Scott Hartzell
The Koslowsky Family	Jack & Jeanne Koslowsky
Mary Lou & Jim Lynch	Husband & Father: Henry Lynch Son & Brother: David Lynch
Nancy Lynch	My Husband: Bill Lynch
Julie Meisinger	Family Members
The Negley Family	Bob Almond
The Norris Family	Walt Norris
Heather Penna	My Mother: Bernadette Keith
Wes & Nancy Rowles	Our Parents
Rob & Laura Shoop	Loved Ones
	In Honor Of:
Frank & Ann Barlow	Our Church & Preschool Families
Vickie Fender	New Baby Fronczkowski
The Koslowsky Family	David & Leatrice's engagement
Julie Meisinger	God's Glory
Jonathan & Catharine Taylor	Our Families

Announcements

FaithWilmington.com/announcements

PRAYER CHAIN: *FaithWilmington.com/community/prayer-requests*

TODAY AT FAITH 10:15 am Sunday School Fellowship
 6:00 pm Youth Group Christmas White Elephant

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

T, 12/24	R, 12/26	Sa, 12/28
▪ Christmas Eve Worship 5 & 7pm	▪ Worship Team	▪ Men’s Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

- Today, December 22; 10:15 am; fellowship for all ages in the gym
- No Sunday School next week, 12/29, to give teachers a Christmas break
- New Winter Classes begin Sunday, January 5; 10:15 am

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

- Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- Traditional services featuring brass and carols

2024 THANK OFFERING

- Between Thanksgiving and year end we annually receive a special offering, thanking God for his goodness to us over this past year.
- This year’s Thank Offering supports MTW Panama missionaries Rev. Scott Dillon & family– meeting monthly support & surgery expenses.
- Place cash in designated giving envelope. Checks should be made out to Faith Presbyterian Church with “Thank Offering” on the memo line. Give online: faithwilmington.com/giving

ADVENT RESOURCES

- Candle lighting in our December services reminds us of the promise that Light has come to the world & we look to His second coming
- A family guide of Advent Readings is available in the gathering space and at faithwilmington.com/christmas

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2025

- Sunday, January 26, 2025; following lunch in the gym
- 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am combined worship, 11:45 am luncheon – \$5 per person for lunch, \$15 max per household
- We will elect elder candidates Dave Anderson, Frank Barlow, Ethan Dunham, Joe Manbeck, and deacon candidate Ralph McCafferty, report on the ministries of the church, review the budget, and hold a meeting of the corporation

WOMEN'S WINTER BIBLE STUDY

- Mondays, January 6 – February 24, 7:00-8:00 pm; Groom's Parlor
- "Remember Your Joy" by Courtney Doctor & Melissa B. Kruger – a Bible Study of Salvation Stories in the Old Testament
- Pre-order book (available on amazon.com)
- Contact Tanya Hettler with questions (tanyahettler@gmail.com)

GIVING UPDATE

1/1/24 through 11/24/24:

Contributions Budgeted:	\$676,229
Contributions Received:	\$667,257
Deficit:	(\$8,972)

Giving to the work of the church recognizes and responds to the grace God has given to us. It is a joyful act of worship where God allows us to participate in his mission. As stewards of God's resources, we encourage you to thoughtfully and strategically plan your giving.

To help you, there are several options at Faith:

1. *In Person.* Cash or check in the offering box.
2. *Online.* Secure and confidential: faithwilmington.com/giving.
3. *Non-Cash.* Stocks and bonds through PNC Investments, DTC # 00226, NFS Account # 005-076889, F/B/O Faith Presbyterian Church. For the giving of other non-cash assets, contact our office.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE - 2025

Elders

Dave Anderson: Dave has attended Faith since his youth and has served as an elder, deacon, youth leader, and youth Sunday School teacher over the years. He completed his bachelor degree in Financial Management at Grove City College and his master degree in Community Counseling at Wilmington University. Dave works for Citi and lives in Hockessin with his wife Jena. They have three children: David, Dawson, and Rebecca.

Frank Barlow: Frank, along with his wife Ann, have been members at Faith since 1978. Initially Frank and Ann served as youth leaders. Later, Frank became a deacon and served as treasurer. He has been an elder at Faith for more than 30 years. Over that time, he has been involved in various session ministries including missions and nominating, and he also has served as clerk of session. Frank has taught adult Sunday School classes and currently co-leads a community group. Frank has also been active in visitation evangelism ministry and has served as a group leader in Faith Explored. He has been active in various presbytery activities. He and his wife Ann have six children: Stephen, Catharine Barlow Taylor, Joseph, Clark, Timothy, and Amy Barlow Hoover; and five grandsons. As a vocation, Frank is a CPA and recently semi-retired from his position as an accounting director for Cigna Corporation. Currently, he teaches accounting part-time at the University of Delaware.

***Ethan Dunham:** Ethan lives in North Wilmington and is a 25-year member of Faith Presbyterian Church. In that time, Ethan served as an elder, deacon, community group leader, children's Sunday School teacher, adult Sunday School teacher, and Adult Sunday School Superintendent. He also sat on the board of Tall Oaks Classical School for 5 years. Currently he leads a community group in his home and sits on the provisional session of Hope Presbyterian Church. Ethan is a Product Director at Creative Market. He and his wife, Lisa, have four children: Elliot, Lindsay, Casey, and Joel. Raised in upstate New York in the Christian faith, Ethan attended several denominations before embracing the Reformed tradition and the PCA.

*The session nominated Ethan to a 1 year term to create "classes of approximately equal distribution" with 2 other elders requiring sabbatical.

Joe Manbeck: Joe Manbeck has been attending Faith since 2012 and has served as a deacon since 2014. Over the years, Joe has been actively involved in various aspects of church life, including children's ministries, the worship team, and leading a community group. Joe is married to Deanna, and together they have three sons—Timmy, Jacob, and Luke. When not serving the church, Joe enjoys spending time outdoors and playing board games with his family.

Deacon

Ralph McCafferty: Ralph McCafferty was born in Wilmington, DE and raised in Port Deposit, MD and Wilmington, DE. Ralph and his wife Candy live in South Graylyn Crest. Ralph has been a member of Elsmere Presbyterian Church, Port Deposit Presbyterian Church, and Glasgow Reformed Presbyterian Church in Bear, DE. He was active in the House Church and Men's Bible study ministries at GRPC. During US Army training at Fort Gordon, GA he was active in the Navigators. Ralph spent forty years in the construction business and nine years in the Christina School District. He is retired from the DuPont Company and Christina School District.