



Faith Community United Methodist Church

5315 Harford Road

Baltimore, MD 21214

Pastor Ronald S. Dodson Sr.

Church: 410-426-8177

Sunday, December 2, 2018

1st Sunday Of Advent

10:00 AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

WE GATHER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

Keith Harmon

GREETING & VISITOR WELCOME

Wanda Mitchell

CALL TO WORSHIP:

No one in Bethlehem was prepared for the coming of the Lord.

During this Advent Season we have the opportunity to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem no one recognized him as the Messiah.

We gather here to worship Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Praise be to God!

*OPENING HYMN: UMH #519 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" *[Red Hymnal]*

PRAYER FOR FAITH:

Lord, this is the time of year when we are tempted to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, and in so doing, lose sight of what it all means. Be with us, we pray, in our Advent journey, and keep us ever mindful of the real reason for the season. Amen.

[Silent prayers of confession and forgiveness of others]

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: God's word tells us, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people.

People Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never dreamed of.

Reader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

People: We light this first Advent, the candle of hope. May we be partners in hope, witnesses to the promise that hope is coming. It is being born into the world. Amen.

Advent song: UMH #211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" [vs.] *[Red Hymnal]*

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: UMH p. 6 [Red Hymnal]

PSALTER UMH 756: Psalm 25:1-10 [Red Hymnal]
R: Lord, make me know your ways. Lead me in your truth and teach me.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 21:25-36
Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God!

YOUNG PEOPLE'S BLESSING: Kate Ehrenberger
FWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"
This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.

HYMN OF PREPARATION: UMH #368 "My Hope Is Built" [Red Hymnal]

HOMILY: Pastor Ron Dodson

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

COMMUNION HYMN

THE LORD'S TABLE: UMH pp. 12-15 [Red Hymnal]

WE CELEBRATE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

PRAISE REPORTS

PRAYER CONCERNS: *"Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."*

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE OFFER THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY:

*DOXOLOGY: UMH #95 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" [Red Hymnal]

We are ever growing in Christ, inviting each one to make a difference.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

REMINDERS:

- Faith Ensemble rehearsal today, 12 in the Chapel
- Sunday, December 9, Church Council Meeting 12n in the Great Room

BLESSING WITH A MISSION

POSTLUDE *Please remain seated until the candles are extinguished and the music is finished, then go to the Fellowship Hall to meet and greet one another.*

Scripture Lessons for December 9, 2018:

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6
- Philippians 1:3-11



UMC East Baltimore Cluster Advent Series
Wednesday, December 5, 12 and 19; 7 – 8 p.m.
St. Matthews New Life UMC
416 E. 23rd Street [Parking is available]