



Faith Community United Methodist Church

5315 Harford Road

Baltimore, MD 21214

Pastor Ronald S. Dodson Sr.

Church: 410-426-8177

Sunday, December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday Of Advent

10:00 AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

WE GATHER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE Keith Harmon

GREETING & VISITOR WELCOME John Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Children of God, why have you come here?

We come seeking the One who will give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

You have come to the right place, for Jesus is the Light of the word.

We need that Light and his direction to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Praise be to God! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: UMH #196 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

PRAYER FOR FAITH:

Lord, you have taught us the meaning and the power of true love.

May that love keep on growing, as our faith and understanding of you continue to grow, enabling us to make better judgments. Keep ever before us the challenge to show forth that love in all that we do or think. Amen.

[Silent prayers of confession and forgiveness of others]

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: Today, we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home—doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us: back-breaking laborers on whom our economy depends—those we overlook and rarely appreciate yet rely on for our very survival. These are the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

Reader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle for the shepherds--agents of the gospel and the Redeemer of the world. *[adapted from Amy C. Wake]*

ADVENT HYMN: UMH #211 vs. 2

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: UMH p. 6

[Red Hymnal]

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4

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

*GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:68-79cd

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "We Are Marching in the Light of God" Faith Ensemble

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, we are marching, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching, we are marching in the light of God.

[dancing, singing, praying]

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: FWS #2036 "Give Thanks" *[Black Hymnal]*

HOMILY

Pastor Ron Dodson

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

O God, as we present these gifts for the work of your church, we know that the gift without the giver is of little use. So, we offer unto you today not lonely these gifts, but ourselves as well, to be used by you in the work of your kingdom. Amen.

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

WE DEPART TO SERVE

REMINDERS

- Church Council Meeting 12n today in the Great Room
- Poinsettia orders are due by Wednesday 12/12.

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

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 16, 2018:

- Micah 5:2-5
- Luke 1:39-55
- Hebrews 10:5-10



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*]