



November 19, 2023 | 10:30 A.M.
25th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Adagio, from *Fantaisie in C*

César Franck (1822-1890)

Prelude on the Hymn Tune *Kremser*
We Gather Together

Beatrice Hatton Fisk (1903-1977)

GREETING

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

stand, in body, spirit, or voice

CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Psalms/Now by Leslie Brandt*)

One: God is with us and about us.

All: **God is present even behind anonymous faces we pass on the sidewalk.**

One: God is present in the hearts and lives of God's children who infiltrate the urban masses and who are running God's errands and fulfilling holy purposes in the course of their daily duties.

All: **God is present in this place, in the company of those who love one another. We happily open our hearts to the loving mercy of God.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 559

We Gather Together

KREMSER

all are seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Because we know how merciful our God is, we can have the courage to admit how we've misused the gifts we've been given. Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: **Giving God, we are so blessed! You have given us such an abundance of gifts and talents. We know we've taken them for granted, or wasted them or hidden them in our personal lock boxes. We are careless with each other, and we are careless with the earth, and we fail to see your face in the faces of each other. Forgive us, Loving God, and restore us to the new life you promise. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

There follows a moment of silence for prayers of confession.



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Music: Arrangement reprinted with the permission of the executor of the estate of Healey Willan.

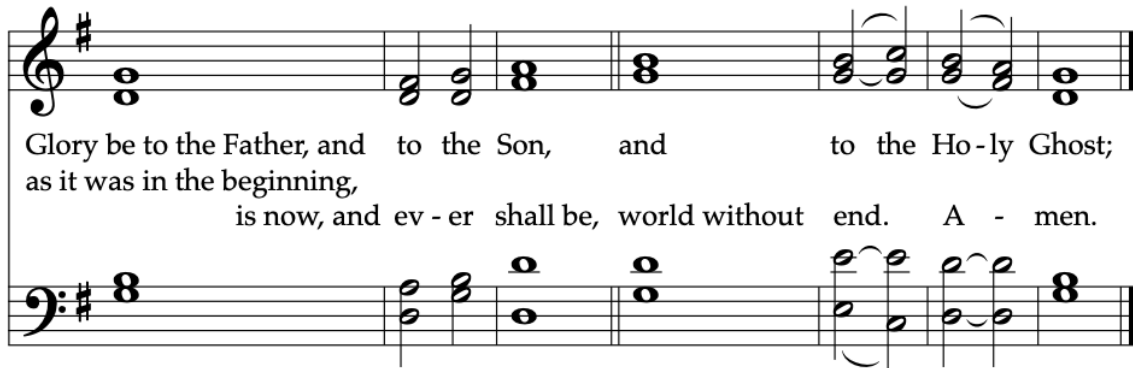
DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: We need only look at the beauty of the world around us to know that God's love radiates in the warmth of the sun, in the brilliance of the leaves, and in the faces of those near us. May we trust God's love to allow us to use what we have been given for the greater good knowing that we are, indeed, forgiven and restored. In Jesus' name, Amen.

stand, in body, spirit, or voice

GLORIA PATRI

Traditional Scottish chant



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

all are seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, that in your truth we may find freedom, and that in your will, we may discover your peace, through Jesus Christ.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 123*

Liturgist

All: **To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
For we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease,
Of the contempt of the proud.**

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Laudate Dominum
from Vesperae Solennes de Confessore, K.339

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Meredith Piplani, *soprano*

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes
Laudate eum, omnes populi
Quoniam confirmata est
Super nos misericordia eius
Et veritas, veritas Domini manet, manet in aeternum
Gloria Patri et Filio
Et Spiritui Sancto
Sicut erat in principio et nunc, et semper
Et in saecula saeculorum
Amen.

Praise the Lord, all nations;
Praise Him, all people.
For He has bestowed
His mercy upon us,
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and forever,
And for generations of generations.
Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 25:14-30*

Rev. Christa Burns

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Holes*

Rev. Christa Burns

stand, in body, spirit, or voice

HYMN OF RESPONSE *see insert*

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

Following the hymn, you may bring any prayer request cards to the front of the sanctuary, or signal an usher to assist you.

all are seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Purple Ribbon List (November 7-November 14)

No reported deaths due to gun violence.

We hang a purple ribbon on the Park Avenue side of our building to remind us to pray for the victims, survivors, and perpetrators of these acts of violence in Baltimore City. If you would like to join in putting up a ribbon after worship, please signal an usher.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS: A MEMOIR READING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

*If you wish to give online, scan this QR code or visit www.firstfranklin.org.
If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send it to the church office.*



AT THE OFFERTORY

A Grateful Heart

Mary Plumstead (1905-1980)
arr. Andrew Fletcher (b. 1950)

Thou who hast giv'n so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart.
Not thankful when it pleaseth not,
As if Thy blessings had spare days.
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.

~George Herbert

stand, in body, spirit, or voice

DOXOLOGY 591

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise Christ, all crea -
 tures, here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more; Praise Tri - une God, whom
 we a - dore. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Phil Adams

One: Giving and gracious God, we know that we need not live in fear because your endless love and abundant mercy are always available. We are thankful that you have endowed each of us with various skills and abilities. Help us to recognize our individual gifts, to be bold in exercising them, and to use their multiplied returns to work for peace and justice for all of creation. Receive and bless this morning's offerings as proceeds of the talents we have been afforded and keep us ever mindful of your generosity. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

remain standing for

HYMN OF RESPONSE 555

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
arr. Virgil Fox (1912-1980)

*It is the custom of this congregation to remain in the sanctuary for the postlude. Those wishing to exit may do so.
Grace and joy to all who have joined us in worship! Please join us for fellowship in Reid Chapel.*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Max and Dave

Bill and Corena Bridges

Becky Brown and Tom Scuderi

Jim Schroll - requested by Audrey Suhr

Lisa Hall - requested by Deborah McCrimmon

Shirley Watson - requested by Deborah McCrimmon

Walter Fischel - requested by Dave and Connie Fischel

Alma Bethea - requested by Deborah McCrimmon

Melinda - requested by Onyeka Anaedozi

The Session of Taguasco Church

Peace in Israel and Gaza

Muddassar Iqbal

SAFETY NOTE: No staff or representative of First & Franklin will ever contact you about giving money or any other forms of payment to support individuals or families who may be on the prayer or birthday list. Please always take caution if you are asked to donate by anyone online or over the phone. If there is ever a question about whether something is legitimate, please contact the church office immediately.



UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS (11/19-11/26)

BIRTHDAYS

Sasha Koo-Oshima

Laurel Oldach

Rod Wright

ANNIVERSARIES

James E. Morgan and Ellwood (Sam) Quigg

GUEST PREACHER: Rev. Christa Burns

Christa was born in Iowa, and has lived in Southern California, Tulsa, St. Louis, New York City and Baltimore. She graduated with an MDiv from Union Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1979 in the Long Island Presbytery. Christa has served churches in Long Island, Brooklyn and Baltimore, most recently Faith Presbyterian Church (2001-2018). She has four children and six grandchildren.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Christa Burns, *Guest Preacher*
Jason Kissel, *Minister of Music & Arts/Organist*

Steve Noffsinger and Ron Pate, *ushers*
Rev. Rhonda Cooper, *liturgist*

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Clarence Baney	Don Juedes	Meredith Piplani	Steve Roach	Christina Stewart
Anne Culbertson	Kirk McAuliffe	Jacob Plaisted	Doug Savin	Jan Trammell-Savin
Jake Elfner	John McLucas	Anna Pollitt	Betty Schroll	Randy Veale
Zhenya Gnezdilova	Alex Mendelsohn	Daveen Rim	Marianne Shick	
Jim Harvey	Laura Oldham	Ben Riniker	Sandra Smith	

FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Rev. Steve Nofel, <i>Bridge Pastor</i>	George Meagher, <i>Sexton</i>
Jason Kissel, DMA, <i>Minister of Music & Arts/Organist</i>	Anna Pollitt, <i>Office Administrator</i>
Deborah McCrimmon, <i>Director of Christian Arts & Education</i>	Aaron Houston, <i>Audio Engineer</i>

SESSION

CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025
Becca Hollaway	Paul Fowler	Dave Pierson
John McLucas	Alex Mendelsohn	Marianne Shick
	Allie Pyan	Kris Stinson

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025
Marla Holt	Anne Culbertson	Ryan-Paul Johnson
Randolph Veale	Michael Johnson	

CALENDAR

Current as of November 16

11/19 Sun 11:30am-12:30pm | Alternative Christmas Market
11/19 Sun 1:00pm - 3:00pm | F&F Leaders Retreat (Sanctuary)
11/20 Mon 5:30pm-7:30pm | WMA Committee Meeting
11/21 Tue 6:00pm-7:30pm | Session Meeting
11/21 Tue 7:00pm-8:00pm | Mt. Vernon Belvedere Association (Reid Chapel)
11/22 Wed | December Newsletter Deadline
11/23 Thu | Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
11/24 Fri 12:00pm-1:00pm | Al-Anon (Backus House)
11/25 Sat 10:30am-1:30pm | 12-Step NA Meeting (Reid Chapel)
11/25 Sat | No Food Pantry
11/26 Sun | No Adult Education
11/26 Sun 9:00am-10:00am | Sunday School (Backus House)
11/26 Sun 10:30am-11:30am | Bridge Pastor: Rev. Steve Nofel
11/26 Sun 11:30am-12:30pm | Hanging of the Greens (Sanctuary)

For more information about these events, visit firstfranklin.org or call the office at (410) 728-5545.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP: Our annual budget for 2023 depends on \$275,000 in contributions. As of November 15, we have only received 61% of our budgeted contributions for 2023. If you are able, please consider making a year-end gift to First & Franklin and help us to finish this year strong. If you would like your gift to be on your 2023 giving statement, we request receipt by the church office no later than noon on Friday, December 29, 2023. You can give online at www.firstfranklin.org/give or by offering plate at church on Sunday morning.

It's not too late to be "All In" and make a pledge for 2024. Your pledge helps us plan for the 2024 budget year and shows your support for the programs and future of First & Franklin Presbyterian Church. We have a pledge goal of \$200,000 dollars which is approximately 80% of our budgeted giving for 2024. If you'd like to make a pledge for 2024, please see an usher for a pledge form, or visit www.firstfranklin.org/pledge.

<p>Average 2023 Monthly Expenses: \$55,280 Average 2023 Monthly Giving: \$15,405 2023 Giving Deficit: \$105,540</p> <p>November 2023 Actual Giving: \$26,047</p>	<p>Pledge today! 2024 Stewardship Campaign www.firstfranklin.org/pledge <i>So far, we have reached</i> 63% <i>of our pledge goal!</i></p>
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ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET: After worship today, come to the Alternative Christmas Market in Reid Chapel. For those of you new to this tradition, the Market is a practical way to refocus our attention on Christmas away from commercialism and towards the original message of Christmas: "Peace on Earth and Good Will Towards All." The Peacemaking Committee has picked 10 organizations who focus on "Peace on Earth." Representatives from these groups will be our guests at the Market to explain to you their organization's goals and to share stories about their work. Take time to listen and learn, it will be inspiring! You will be able to support these organizations by purchasing Christmas Cards at \$5 apiece. The money will go directly to the organizations you choose and you may send your Christmas cards, which will explain your donation, to friends, work partners, neighbors, and family members. This year's organizations include: First & Franklin Food Pantry, South Dakota Learning Camp, Cuba Partnership, Guns 2 Gardens, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Women's Housing Coalition, Family Survivor Network, and ROCA.

For those of you unable to attend the Alternative Christmas Market today, a Mini-Market will be held during coffee hour on December 3. Cards will be available for purchase without hosting representatives from the organizations. Please plan to join this joyful event and be a part of spreading the Good News of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards All."

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS: Orders are now being accepted for poinsettias! If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor/memory of a loved one, please complete an order form (inserted in this bulletin) and submit it to the church office. They may be a mix of red, white, pink, and marble. All orders are due to the church office with payment by Monday, December 1, 2023. The flowers will beautify our Dec. 17th and Christmas Eve worship services and can then be taken home or delivered to the home-bound, hospitalized or those needing our care and concern. Your memorials and celebrations will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TOY DRIVE UPDATES: Thank you for already filling our first box of new toys for sick children at nearby University Hospital. Our fifth-grade students are looking forward to gifting the new toys and games to The Child Life Program. The acceptance of donations will end on Sunday, December 17th. Deborah McCrimmon has been communicating with Ms Elizabeth Connelly, Child Life Specialist, about how the donation will be delivered. For obvious reasons, our students will not be allowed on the hospital floor. The gifts will be delivered to the hospital prior to Christmas Day. Again, keep the gifts coming and a big thank you. *Gift suggestions: Arts and crafts, baby dolls, board games, children's books, card games, Bluetooth speakers/headphones, coloring books, dry erase boards and markers, Fisher-Price Little People® toys, Hot Wheels cars/track sets, infant/toddler toys, journals, Legos/Duplo/Mega Blocks, Play-Doh, puzzles, etc.*

HANGING OF THE GREENS: We will deck the halls on Sunday, November 26th after worship with our greenery and wreaths to dress the Sanctuary for the holiday season. Please consider joining in and hanging at least one wreath or help with the swags. If we have 10-12 people all pitching in the process will go quickly. The more the merrier!

ADVENT BOOK STUDY: The Church Life Committee has been excitedly looking ahead to Advent and has picked a short study to guide our reflections as a church: Walter Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study*. This four-week study looks at the names given to the Messiah in the Old Testament (specifically the Isaiah passages that became the basis for Handel's *Messiah*) and wrestles with how Jesus both fulfilled those expectations and maybe even challenged them. Join us in Reid Chapel at 9 am on Sunday mornings starting December 3 as we draw near to the Messiah whose presence we celebrate during Advent. Please either order a copy online, on kindle, or reach out to churchlife@firstfranklin.org to request a copy. Donuts and coffee will be provided.

SPIRE SERIES: CANDLELIGHT CHORAL CONCERT: The First & Franklin Sanctuary Choir, directed by Jason Kissel, will present their annual Candlelight Choral Concert on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm. This yearly tradition celebrates the holiday season with choral music including Vivaldi's *Gloria* with Baroque ensemble and carols. We also welcome gifted harpist and friend of the choir Jacqueline Pollauf. Join us in the glow of the candlelight to revel in music, beauty, and the joy of Christmas. No tickets required - a free will offering will be taken.

COOKIE RECEPTION: 'Tis the Season for Cookies! We have begun preparations for the cookie reception after the Candlelight Concert on Sunday, December 10th. If anyone would like to sign up to make homemade cookies for the reception, please email churchlife@firstfranklin.org with the type and how many you would like to bring. Thanks!

THANKSGIVING DINNER HOSTS NEEDED: Want some company for Thanksgiving Day? It's nice to be with people for that special meal. The Church Life Committee wants to know if you would like to be invited to someone's home for Thanksgiving, or if you would like to host someone and add a place or two at your table. We are asking you to fill out an online form to indicate interest either way, using the link in the Thursday eblast. You can also contact the church office (410 728 5545) to indicate your interest. We will do a little matchmaking and let you know who your host or guest will be.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Saturday, November 11th (Veterans Day) the Food Pantry distributed a total of 106 bags (which consists of 53 groceries and 53 produce) to the residents of the Mt. Vernon community. The Food Pantry takes place on Saturdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm in Backus House. It is closed on the last Saturday of each month.

FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."