

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 2014

8:00 a.m.



We Gather in God's Name

Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.

Please remember to turn cell phones and pagers to silent for worship.

Where you see an asterisk () please stand if you are able.*

Words in *Italics* are read by the leader;
words in **bold**, by the congregation.

For Meditation before Worship *(for personal use before worship)*

Car meum tibi offero Domine prompte et sincere.

Lord, I offer you my heart, freely and sincerely.

the life motto of John Calvin

Words of Welcome

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.

Newcomers please leave us your address and phone number!

Then, pass the folder the length of the pew and back.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Alleluia!

Prelude

Jesus Shall Reign
The Handbell Choir

Sherman

Prayer of the Day

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Trinity of love, inviting us to abide in you:

**may we follow the Spirit of truth
through desert wild and city street,
rugged field and snowbound height,
battleground and market square,
that your demanding love might speak
to the heart of the diverse world.**

Amen.

* Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Maker of all:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, servant of the poor:

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life:

Have mercy on us.

God of life,

by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new.

Newness scares us,

and we confess to shutting our doors in fear.

We have resisted the Holy Spirit

moving us in new directions.

Our hearts are slow to trust your promises.

Forgive us, O God,

and renew us to embrace without fear

the new life you have opened to us in Jesus Christ.

(We continue in silent, personal prayer...)

Assurance of Grace

* Response of Praise *(singing together)*

Yemen Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia!

* **Sharing the Peace**

*The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

* **Welcoming One Another**

We greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 66:8-20

Page 459; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: John 14:15-21

Page 877; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Christ Our Truth

Morton Harris

(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

We Respond to God's Word

* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)*

adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism Q45

How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

First, by his resurrection Christ has overcome death,
so that he might make us share

in the righteousness obtained for us by his death.

Second, by Christ's power

we too are already raised to new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection

is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

Thanks be to God!

* **Hymn 318**

In Christ There Is No East or West

St. Peter

Concerns and Remembrances

A Prayer for Memorial Day

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

Loving and gracious God,
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
you have brought us out to a spacious place
where we are called to live as those redeemed.
Empower us by your Spirit to keep your commandments,
that we may show forth your love
with gentle word and reverent deed
to all your people.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Offering

Offertory

Like A River Glorious
The Handbell Choir

Mountain

* **Doxology 717** *(singing together)*

Pleading Savior

For the life that you have given,
for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor,
with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises;
heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you,
living what we pray and sing.

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Let us give thanks to the living God.

We thank God with joy.

(We stand quietly as the liturgist offers a prayer.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.

During Today's Worship

Please turn all cell phones to "silent" when in the Sanctuary.

Large print bulletins (including hymns and scripture readings) and individual listening devices are available from the ushers. Photography during worship is discouraged, and flash is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

If your infant or child needs care or becomes disruptive during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning. The nursery is in Room 159. We have a texting system that will alert you if you are needed while in the worship service. The ushers will be glad to help you.

Worship programs for children include: *Godly Play* for younger children (age 4 - grade 1) during the 8 & 11 a.m. services; *The Worship Bridge* for older children (grades 2-5) at the 11 a.m. service.

Worship folders and crayons for children are available at the usher's table in The Commons. Please return the crayons as you leave the sanctuary. *White bulletins* for children ages three to six; *Gray bulletins* for children ages seven to twelve.

If you are new to First Church

Please sign our Ritual of Friendship, the red pad in the pew.

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.

Handicap entrance is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for conversation and fellowship in Lyle Buck Hall.

New Member Orientation explores what it means to be part of First Church household. This one-session class is the way to become a member of First Church. The next orientation is **Sunday, June 22nd at 11:00 a.m.** Please contact the church office if you plan to attend or need childcare.

First Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; to request a Stephen Minister; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact our co-pastors Sue or Morton.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County



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www.firstpreshc.org

Ministers: All members of the congregation



Dr. O. Morton Harris, Jr., Co-Pastor
Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education
James Galdieri, Director of Music Ministries
Caroline Smith, Executive Assistant
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator
Marla Youkers, Child Care Coordinator
The Rev. Ruth Bell, Parish Visitor
The Rev. T. Webster Brenner, Parish Associate
The Rev. Stephen Mann, Parish Associate

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We are an Earth Care Congregation ☩ We are a Stephen Ministry Church

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115