

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 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)

"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Mark 13:37

Words of Welcome

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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.

Call to Worship

Chaos crumbles, and the din of voices grows still.

Hearts awaken, and spirits lift.

When God comes near, the earth rejoices, and evil retreats.

Emmanuel, Come! Come near us now.

Prelude

Pastorale Symphony (Messiah)

Handel

Prayer of the Day

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Unexpected God, your advent alarms us.

*Wake us from drowsy worship,
from the sleep that neglects love and justice,
and from the sedative of misdirected frenzy.*

**Awaken us to your coming, O God,
and bend our angers and our apathies into your peace.
Amen.**

* **Hymn 102**

Savior of the Nations, Come

Nun Komm

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.

Holy God,

we confess that we do not walk in your light.

We study the ways of war;

we stray from the paths of peace.

By day we waste your gifts;

by night we dishonor your name.

**Forgive us; deliver us; awaken us to your Word,
that we may be ready to welcome you with joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 583** *(singing together)*

Taizé

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

* **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 Gather at the Advent Wreath

*We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
That marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,*

**Rouse us from sleep,
That we may be ready to greet our Lord
When he comes with all the saints and angels.**

(We listen to a word from our prophets, and a candle is lit.)

A Prayer for this Season

Enlighten us with your grace,
And prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
We pray for your mercy through Christ our Lord,
Whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Response of Praise 100 *(singing together)* *My Soul Cries Out*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Page 606; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

* **Hymn 349** "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us *Wachet Auf*

Second Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

Page 826; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

When God Comes Close

Morton Harris

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

We Respond to God's Word

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

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

O Lord our God, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Dispel the darkness, that all nations may come to your light. Establish your peace on the earth; join our voices to sing your praise. Comfort the sick and the weary; renew their strength and power. O Lord our God, come to us, that the earth may behold your glory.

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

- * **Doxology** (*singing together*)

Hymn 102, verse 4

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
Virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
Praise we sing eternally.

- * **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Embracing all things far and nigh:*

**In strength and beauty come and stay;
Teach us your will and guide our way.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Come, Lord Jesus!

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

We Go Forth to Serve

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

- * **Hymn 362**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Llangloffan

- * **Invitation to Discipleship**

- * **Closing Responses**

The Light of Life is coming into the world.

We are Christ's people, and we cling to this light.

The Light of Life will fill the world with hope.

We will tend this light. We will carry this light.

We will follow this light.

- * **Benediction**

- * **Postlude**

Concerto in A

Handel



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 too restless 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 to 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 at the ushers' table in The Commons. Please return the crayons as you leave. *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.

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 Walt Peters or Ruth Bell.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County



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Ministers: All members of the congregation



Dr. O. Morton Harris, Jr., Co-Pastor
Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor
Dr. Walter W. Peters, Pastor-in-Residence
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 Michalcyzk 410-433-8861 x115