

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2014

11:00 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 **bold**, read by the congregation.

For Meditation before Worship

(for personal use before worship)

The angel Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Luke 1.28-29

Prelude

Greensleeves

Purvis

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

My soul magnifies the Lord!

Send your Word, O God.

My spirit rejoices in God my savior!

Send your Word!

For the Mighty One has done great things,

And Holy is the name of the Lord!

Introit

Advent Sentence

Lee

Prayer of the Day

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Stir us up, O Lord, with your Sovereign power and free us from the sin that weighs us down and obstructs the work of your mercy.

Help us to energetically carry your love to all the world. Where there is need and longing for redemption, grace, freedom and a desire for Truth. Make us bold and brave, alert and eager for the ways of your love. Amen.

* **Hymn 143**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

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.

**O God who is always faithful,
we know that you are always here to guide us,
and still, we insist on making our plans
without listening to your guidance.
We allow our human agenda and eager yearnings
to cancel out our ability to hear your will for us.
We are ashamed and sorry for what we do wrong,
and we turn to you in love.
Forgive us Lord, for our offenses,
and help us to set them right.
Pardon our sins,
so our lives may magnify your holy name forever.
Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

(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 wheel of time
That marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
**Open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.**

(We listen to a word from the prophets, and then candles are lit.)

A Prayer for this Season

Enlighten us with your grace,
That we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word become flesh.
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: Romans 16:25-27

Page 926; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Children's Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Afterwards, children ages 4-7 may go with Miss Kathy to Godly Play. Parents can pick up their children following worship in Rooms 110 & 113.

Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Mrs. Cathy Lindenmann to The Worship Bridge. They will return to worship later in the service.

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.

Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Page 831; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

The Annunciation

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.

- * **Hymn 100** *Star of the County Down*

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning

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, so all nations may come to your light. Establish your peace on the earth; unite our voices to sing your praise.

Comfort the sick and the weary; renew their strength and power. O Lord our God, come to us, so the earth may behold your glory. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

Some Children See Him

Alfred Burt

- * **Doxology** (singing together) *Hymn 84, verse 4*

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

- * **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

O come, O King of nations, come,

O Cornerstone that binds in one:

Refresh the hearts that long for you;

Restore the broken, make us new.

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 136** Go, Tell It on the Mountain *Go Tell It*

* **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 love.

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

We will follow this light.

* **Benediction**

* **Response 95**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord,

and all people will see the salvation of our God.

* **Postlude**

The King of Glory Comes

Wold



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 Ruth Bell.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | 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 Michalcyzk 410-433-8861 x115