

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2015



10:00 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**, by the congregation.*

For Meditation before Worship (for personal use before worship)

*As you enter this life I pray you depart
With a wrinkled face and a brand new heart.*

Bono and The Edge

Prelude

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.*

* **Hymn 405** Praise God for This Holy Ground Heymonystraat

* **Lighting the Christ Candle**

*Blessed be the God of wind and rain, field and ocean;
The power at work within us and in this world.
Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:
Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.*

*** A Prayer for the Morning**

May God be with you.

And also with you.

*Thanks be to you, O God,
that we have risen this day to the rising of this life itself.*

**Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose,
the hand of God between us and each hand,
the pain of Christ between us and each pain,
the love of Christ between us and each love.**

**O God who brought us to the bright light of this new day,
bring us to the guiding light of eternity.**

Amen.

*** Hymn 404**

What Is This Place

Komt Nu Met Zang

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 compassion,
we confess that we have not learned your teaching
nor have we followed your way.**

**You lavish your love upon us unceasingly,
but we have let our hearts grow cold.**

**You give us light for our journey,
but we have loved the darkness.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

Cleanse us. Heal us. Reshape us. Renew us.

**By your Word and Spirit, give us wisdom and strength
to love you and your world even as you have loved us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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

Assurance of Grace

*** Response of Praise 581** *(singing together)*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

*** Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* **Song of Thanksgiving 647** (singing together)

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart give thanks to the Holy One, give
5 thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now let the
10 weak say, I am strong; let the poor say I am rich because of what the Lord has
15 done for us Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

We Hear God's Word

Children's Prayer & 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.

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.

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Exodus 15:20-21

Page 55; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Thoughts on the First Lesson: More About Singing Together

Second Lesson: John 3:1-19

Page 863; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

The Teaching of Jesus:
The Overflowing Cup

Morton Harris

We Respond to God's Word

- * **Affirmation of Faith** (together) *from the Confession of 1967*

We believe that God has created the world of space and time
to be the sphere of his dealings with humankind.

In its beauty and vastness,

sublimity and awfulness,

order and disorder,

the world reflects to the eye of faith

the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

We believe that God has created us

for personal relationship in which

we may respond to the love of the Creator.

Life is a gift to be received with gratitude

and a task to be pursued with courage.

- * **Hymn 314** Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness *Christ, Be Our Light*

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer

Unfailing God,

as we have been born again by your word of truth,

let us live out your love by doing your word,

caring for the weak and vulnerable in their distress,

and ever pursuing your realm of justice,

through Jesus Christ, our teacher, friend and savior.

Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

The Prayer

Foster and Sager

Ben Riniker and Clarence Baney, duet

- * **Doxology 643** (singing together) *Now Thank We All Our God, verse 3*

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

- * **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

All that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours, O Lord.

And of your own we give to you.

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

We Go Forth to Serve

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* Hymn 313 Lord, Make Us More Holy Lord, Make Us More Holy

* Closing Responses

In work and in worship:

God is with us.

Gathered and scattered:

God is with us.

Now and always:

God is with us. Thanks be to God!

* Benediction

* Response

Sent By the Lord Am I

Sent by the Lord am I; My hands are ready now to
make the earth the place in which the kingdom come. Sent by the Lord am I; My
hands are ready now to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes. The
angels can not change a world of hurt and pain in to a world of love, of
justice and of peace. The task is mine to do, to set it really free. Oh,
help me to obey; help me to do your will.

* Postlude



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 today during the 10:00 a.m. service:

- *Godly Play* for younger children (age 4 - grade 1) during the 10:00 a.m. services will resume on August 2.

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 four session class is the way to become a member and is scheduled for Sundays, October 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2015 from 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. Call the Church Office if you are interested in attending.

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

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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