

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Climate-in-the-Pulpit Sunday*

September 27, 2015

10:30 a.m.

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## GATHERING

*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** are read by the congregation.

*Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.*

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

*Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose.*

*None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.*

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si [84]*

### **Gathering Music**

|          |                    |                             |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Song     | God of Wonders     | <i>Byrd &amp; Hindalong</i> |
| Song     | Day By Day         | <i>Stephen Schwartz</i>     |
| Hymn 664 | Morning Has Broken | <i>Bunessan</i>             |

### \* **Greeting**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### \* **Lighting the Christ Candle**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**The earth and everything on it belongs to the Lord.**

**The world and its people belong to God.**

All creatures on earth, you obey God's commands,  
so come and praise the Lord!

**Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!**

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

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

\* **Prayer for Sunday Morning**

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Creating God,  
your name is written on every leaf, every bird.

**Your name is written on every river,  
every stone, every living being.**

**We praise and worship you  
for the magnificence of your creation.**

**Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth  
and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation.**

**Amen.**

\* **Hymn 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

*Dix*

**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, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches.

**Open our eyes to see.**

O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals.

**Open our eyes to see.**

O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants.

**Open our eyes to see.**

O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering.

**Open our eyes to see.**

**God our maker,**

**so move us by the wonder of your creation  
that we repent and care more deeply.**

**So move us to grieve the loss of life,  
the loss of habitats and species,**

**that we learn to cherish and protect your world.**

**Amen.**

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

**Assurance of Grace**

These are the words of Jesus.

They are strong and true, so believe them:

“I have come that you may have life in all its fullness.

Go in peace; your sins are forgiven:

Come, each one, and follow me.”

**We are God's people, and we will live by grace.  
We will invite the Spirit to help us live  
faithfully, reverently and carefully -  
visibly different, and gloriously free, for Jesus' sake.  
Thanks be to God!**

\* **Response of Praise 616** *(singing together)* *Our God Is an Awesome God*

Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God!

\* **Sharing the Peace**

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

*We greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.*

\* **Response of Praise** *(singing together)* *Levine*

Hallelu, Hal-le-lu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Hallelu, Hallelujah, Amen.  
*(repeat)*

How good it is that we should be together  
Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, neighbor and friend.  
Reaching out, find a way building bridges for tomorrow.  
Mending hearts, making peace begins with us today.

### **Words of Welcome**

*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.*

## **THE WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson:** James 3:13-4:3 *Page 982; 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 Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play.  
Parents can pick up their children following worship in Rooms 110 & 113.*

*Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary 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.

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us,

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** To Follow Thee More Nearly *Sue Lowcock Harris*

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

## RESPONDING

\* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)* *from the Declaration of Faith (1977)*

God made human beings along with all the other creatures  
and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on it.

We acknowledge we share in the interdependence  
that binds together all Gods' creation.

Yet God gives us power to rule and tame,  
to order and reshape the world.

We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things.

The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.

The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce  
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people  
and reflect God's love for all creatures.

The Lord bids us use our technical skills  
for beauty, order, health, and peace.

Thanks be to God!

\* **Hymn 22** God of the Sparrow *Roeder*

### Concerns and Remembrances

#### Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God, send your Spirit.

**Renew the face of the earth.**

#### Concluding Prayer *(together)*

There is no plant in the ground  
but tells of your beauty, O Christ.

There is no creature on the earth,  
there is no life in the sea  
but proclaims your goodness.

There is no bird on the wing,  
there is no star in the sky,  
there is nothing beneath the sun  
but is full of your blessing.

Lighten my understanding  
of your presence all around O Christ.  
Kindle my will to be caring for creation.  
Amen.

## The Offering

### Offertory Anthem

Crown My Heart

*Whitbourne*

### \* **Doxology 654** *(singing together)*

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

### \* **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 you.**

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

## SENDING

### This Week at First Presbyterian Church

### \* **Song**

We Cry Out

*Jeremy Camp*

### \* **Closing Responses**

For this time and this place and these people,

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

By the faithful earth and the saints in heaven,

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

Through this day, this night, and at every day's dawning,

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

### \* **Benediction**

### \* **Response 667, verse 4**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

### \* **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** include: *Godly Play* for younger children (age 4 - grade 1) during the 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. services; *The Worship Bridge* for older children (grades 2-5) at the 10:30 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.

**Disabled persons entrance** is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

**We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour** after the 10:30 a.m. worship service 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 Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115