

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

8:30 a.m.



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.

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]

Greeting

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

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.

Prelude

* **Hymn 14** For the Beauty of the Earth, verses 1 & 2

Dix

* **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 664**

Morning Has Broken

Bunessan

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

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

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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!

Second Lesson: Esther 4:1-14 *Page 388; pew Bible*

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!

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God, send your Spirit.

Renew the face of the earth.

The Lord's Prayer *(together)*

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Offertory

SENDING

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 32** I Sing the Mighty Power of God *Ellacombe*

* **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



9325 Presbyterian Circle Columbia, MD 21045
410.730.3545 | www.firstpreshec.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

mharris@firstpreshec.org
sharris@firstpreshec.org
vcalleary@firstpreshec.org
jgaldieri@firstpreshec.org
execasst@firstpreshec.org
bookkeeper@firstpreshec.org
sexton@firstpreshec.org
GodlyPlay@firstpreshec.org
rbell@firstpreshec.org

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 Michalczuk 410-433-8861 x115