

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 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.

Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.

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

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Francis of Assisi

* **Greeting**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* **Lighting the Christ Candle**

We are called from the ends of the earth,

We are called from the centers of our lives.

Men and women, young and old,

Rich and poor, strong and weak.

We are called into God's love,

To yearn for justice and to pray for peace.

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

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

Prelude

* **Song**

Mungu Ni Mwema

Democratic Republic of Congo

* **Prayer for Sunday Morning**

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Liberating Christ,

you came into a holy place and read the sacred word
about sight for the blind and freedom for prisoners.

Come to this place now.

Read these words to us,

until our own eyes are opened and our faith is unlocked,

and we see the world as it is, and as it could be;

until the yearnings of ordinary people are taken seriously,

and the visions of the young are valued,

and the potential of the old is released;

until your realm is celebrated everywhere,

and your church is good news to the poor.

Amen.

* **Hymn 339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

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 every people and nation,

we confess that we have not lived as global citizens

in your new realm of justice and peace.

We build up dividing walls in the world.

We contribute to the division in the church.

We ignore the suffering in distant nations

and live in fear of our closest neighbors.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Pour out your Spirit of peace upon us,

break down the dividing walls among us,

and raise us up to be a holy temple –

your temple of peace in the world –

built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ,

in whose holy name we pray.

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

Assurance of Grace

... Once we were strangers and aliens;
now we are citizens with the saints
and members of the household of God.

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** *(singing together)*

Jesus Messiah, refrain

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names

Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel

The rescue for sinners

The ransom from Heaven

Jesus Messiah, Lord of All

* **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)*

Aronson

Halleluyah. Halleluyah. Halleluyah. Halleluyah.

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

Scripture Lesson: Mark 8:1-10

Page 819; 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

Bread in the Desert

Sue Lowcock Harris

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

RESPONDING

* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)* *excerpted from the Confession of Belhar*

We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the church is called
to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

We believe that the church is called blessed
because it is a peacemaker.

We believe that the church is witness
both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth
in which righteousness dwells.

Thanks be to God!

Concerns and Remembrances

Moment for Mission – Earth Forum

The Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Offertory

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God is here.

The Spirit is with us.

Open your hearts.

We open them to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the living God.

We thank God with joy.

[Holy God, our loving Father and Mother, we thank you for your constant care for all your children.....In unity with all who yearn for your will to be done on earth, we praise your name. And this is our song:]

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy Lord!

Santo, santo, santo. Mi Corazón te adora!

Me Corazón te sabe decir: Santo eres, Señor!

[Prayer continues...]

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Communion of the People

*We will receive communion this morning
by passing the bread and the cup to one another in the pew.
Gluten-free bread is in the center of the bread tray.
The outer circle is white grape juice; the inner circles are red wine.
Our tradition is to eat the bread as it comes to you,
and then to hold the cup so we may commune together.*

Music at Communion

Prayer After Communion *(together)*

God of all nations, we give you thanks
for this feast of your goodness and grace.
As you have nourished us in Christ Jesus,
send us forth to feed and serve others -
sharing your peace with the whole community
and showing your faithful love in the world;
through Jesus Christ, bread of life for all.
Amen.

SENDING

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 373** O Day of Peace *Jerusalem*

* Closing Responses

May the faithful God lead us,
that we may stand firm in faith for justice and for peace.
May the healing Christ teach us love and compassion,
that we may stand firm in faith for justice and peace.
May the Spirit, out of love and compassion, teach us to act.
**May God – faithful, wise and loving – teach us to act,
that we may stand firm in faith for justice and for peace.**

* Benediction

* **Response 543, verse 5** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

* 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 or Pastor Morton.

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