



Welcome to First Worship!

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion
September 4, 2016
9:00 AM

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

Gather

We 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.*

The worship leader reads the italic print.
Everyone reads the standard print together.

Prelude

We listen and get ready to worship God.

Greeting

The Pastor welcomes everyone to worship.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Lighting the Christ Candle

*We say words from scripture
to proclaim who God is and what God has done.*

We are children of God, learning to walk.
Day by day we are learning to be the church.
You have been called to the banquet
This is the feast of light and life.
Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:
**Christ is the light of the world
and the center of our lives.**

Prayer for the Morning

We pray together.

May God be with you.

And also with you.

On this new day, O God,

I thank you for the air that fills my lungs,

for the light that shines on my path,

and the water that quenches my thirst.

Let my thanks overflow now as I worship you.

Amen.

*** Opening Song**

We praise God by singing about God's greatness and goodness.

Hymn 525 Let Us Break Bread Together

*** Prayer of Confession**

We stand humbly before God and pray together.

Holy God,

you love us, you care for us,

and you lead us day by day.

But we have not followed you.

We have not loved you

with our whole heart and mind and strength.

And we have not loved our neighbors.

Forgive us by your grace.

Help us to walk in your way,

that we may see the world as you do,

and love it with your love;

for Jesus sake. Amen.

(We continue to pray silently.)

*** Assurance of Grace**

The Pastor reminds us of God's forgiveness

in the name of Jesus Christ.

*** Response of Praise**

Mungu Ni Mwema

We sing Alleluia; it means "Praise God!"

Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*** Sharing the Peace**

We greet each other with a sign of Christ's welcome.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*** Song**

Song 399

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

Hear

Prayer for Illumination

We ask God's Spirit to help us understand.

Scripture Lesson

We read today's Bible story.

Luke 14:12-24

(on page 849 of the pew Bible)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Bible Lesson

*The Pastors helps us hear that God who speaks in scripture,
speaks to us now.*

We end our Bible Lesson with a time of silence.

Respond and Serve

Offering

We give our tithes and offerings for God's service.

Special Music

As we give our gifts, Mr. G offers special music to God and we listen as he plays.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We are invited to the feast.

We give thanks for this meal. Our prayer begins:

God is here.

The Spirit is with us.

Let us open our hearts.

We open them to God and one another.

Let us give thanks.

We thank God with joy.

(The prayer continues. We end our prayer by praying 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.**

We share bread and wine.

Mr. G will play some music while we share in communion.

Afterwards, we pray a prayer of thanks.

*** Closing Song**

Hymn 765 May the God of Hope Go with Us

* **Closing Responses**

God sends us out into the world to serve.

In work and worship

God is with us

Gathered and scattered

God is with us.

Now and always

God is with us. Thanks be to God.

* **Blessing**

The Pastor gives us a blessing as we leave worship.

Postlude

Mr. G will play some music as we leave the sanctuary.



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 during the summer include: *Godly Play* for younger children (age 4 - grade 1) during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Worship bags for children are at the ushers' table in The Commons. Please return the bags as you leave. *Green bags and white bulletins* for children ages three to six; *Purple bags and 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 attend the Lemonade on the Lawn after the 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. worship services for conversation and fellowship on the front lawn.

We invite you to become a member of First Church. Please speak with Morton or Sue or call the church office to set a time to meet.



The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

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410.730.3545
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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, Church Administrator
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
Pastoral Counseling Services of Maryland at First Presbyterian Church
Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalcyzk410-433-8861 x115