

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 25, 2016

8:30 a.m.



GATHER

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)*

*This is the life that really is life: to be filled with astonishment that we
creatures of sunlight, water and molecular processes can taste the goodness
and joy of reconciliation with each other and with the one who created us all.*
Thomas Troeger

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 contact information!
Then, pass the folder the length of the pew and back.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Our help is in the Name Unnamed
Who made heaven and earth.

Take hold of the gift of life;
To this we are called in Christ Jesus.

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:
Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Prelude

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Living God, in Christ Jesus
you cross the boundary between us.

**Give us your grace this day,
that we may reach across the divisions of human society
to those who are weary, in trouble, or in need,
so that, through us,
all may experience your encompassing love
and know your saving grace.
Amen.**

* Hymn 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

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 overflowing grace,
we come to you with repentant hearts.
We hoard what we have and grasp for more,
ignoring those who hunger and thirst.
We stay with our own kind;
we are complacent in the face of systems that oppress.
Forgive us.
Transform us.
Make us generous, and eager to share,
so that we might love as you love.
Amen.**

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

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 582** (*singing together*)

Glory to God

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

* **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* **Welcoming One Another**

We greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

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

I am walking a path of peace

I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
Lead me home, lead me home.

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Page 965; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: Luke 16:19-31

Page 851; 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 Who Will They Believe?

Morton Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

- * **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)* *adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit
has conquered the powers of sin and death
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred,
bitterness and enmity;
and that God's life-giving Word and Spirit
will enable the church to live in new obedience
which can open possibilities of life
for society and the world.

Thanks be to God!

- * **Hymn 708** We Give Thee but Thine Own *Schumann*

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of abundant grace,
Hear our prayers.

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.

Moment for Mission – Mission Trip to Baton Rouge

The Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Offertory

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 773** Heaven Shall Not Wait *Heaven Shall Not Wait*

* **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**

* **Postlude**



WORSHIP NOTES: *The Confession of Belhar* was added to our Book of Confessions at the recent General Assembly. It originated as a confession of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa in 1987 (Belhar is the name of the town where the church met to adopt this confession!) Growing out of the witness of the church in South Africa against apartheid, this powerful confession is a call to the church to live our life firmly centered on unity, reconciliation, and justice. Echoing through the few pages of the Belhar Confession is the wonderful vision of Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." From the beginning to the end of Belhar are affirmations that we are all part of one human family, that we are called to be one church, and that we are to stand firmly against any injustice that denies these realities.

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, except on Communion Sunday.

Worship bags for children are at the ushers' table in The Upper Commons. Please return the bags as you leave. *Green bags and bulletins* for children ages three to six (pre-readers); *Purple bags and bulletins* for children ages seven to twelve (readers).

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 Discipleship Hour after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for conversation and fellowship in Lyle Buck Hall.

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

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 Michalczuk 410-433-8861 x115