

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

The Realm of Christ
November 20, 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)*

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time.

T.S. Eliot

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 contact information!

Then, pass the folder the length of the pew and back.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We worship Christ, the eternal Son of God;

We honor Christ, the incarnate Child of Mary;

We serve Christ, the glorious ruler of creation;

For to Christ belong the power and glory of the Holy One.

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.

Holy God, our refuge and strength,
you have redeemed your scattered children.

**You gather us from all the corners of the earth
through your firstborn, Jesus Christ, the Beloved One,
in whom all things hold together.**

**Make us a just and holy people,
worthy by grace to inherit the realm of light and peace
where Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and to eternity.**

Amen.

* **Hymn 643**

Now Thank We All Our God

Nun Danket Alle Gott

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.

**Holy God, we confess that we have neglected
to declare Jesus Christ as the ruler and model for our lives.**

**We have been bold in demanding
generosity, mercy and forgiveness,
yet quiet when it comes to offering
inclusion, love and compassion.**

**We have served the idols of wealth and privilege;
we have sought the protection of violence to oppose violence;
we have lived in fear of death and loss;
we have not loved our neighbors,
nor sought reconciliation with our enemies.**

Forgive us, God of steadfast love.

Instruct our hearts in the way of peace.

Grant us integrity in our quest for truth.

Release us from the fear of death.

Grant us courage in the face of evil.

Free us for joyful service in Christ.

Empower us to live as citizens of your realm.

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)*

from Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers -
all things have been created through Christ and for Christ.
Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together.
Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that in everything Christ might come to have first place.
For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Christ God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of the cross.
Thanks be to God!

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.

The Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Offertory

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 268** Crown Him with Many Crowns *Diademata*

* **Closing Responses**

On our heads and our houses,

The blessings of God.

In our coming and going

The peace of God.

In our life and believing

The love of God.

At our end and new beginning

The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home.

* **Benediction**

* **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, 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

9325 Presbyterian Circle Columbia, MD 21045
410.730.3545 | www.firstpreshc.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, 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
Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115