

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Christmas Day
December 25, 2016

10:00 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.*

Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.

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

We sing because we know there is another way to run the world, a world where death is not the final word, where despair is not the winner, where human power and hierarchies are not thought to be inevitable and unchangeable.

John Holbert



* **Carols for Christmas Morning**

143	Angels, from the Realms of Glory	<i>Regent Square</i>
123	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, <i>verses 1 & 2</i>	<i>Carol</i>
133	O Come, All Ye Faithful	<i>Adeste Fideles</i>

* **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Here is why we light this candle:

We refuse to let go of hope.

We strive for God's reign of peace.

We have courage to pray and work for God's new creation.

We trust in God's love – steadfast, strong and bright.

Whenever we light this Candle, we proclaim:

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

* **Prayer for Christmas Morning**

May God be with you.

And also with you.

God of all ages

in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people
shattered the power of darkness.

**Be born in us with that same love and light,
that our song may blend with all the choirs
of heaven and earth, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

* **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

* **Response 137** *(singing together)*

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

* **Carol**

I Saw Three Ships

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?

Our Savior Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Our Savior Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice and sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice and sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

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.*

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 98

Page 480; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

* **Carol 132** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Second Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

Page 833; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Poems and Carols from the Stable

The First Morning, by Jane Yolen

Carol of the Birds, a traditional carol from Catalan

The Ladybug's Christmas, by Norma Farber

Carol 146 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Tempus Adest Floridum

Carol 128 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W Zlobie Lezy

The Canticle of the Bees, by Phyllis McGinley

What the Donkey Saw, by UA Fanthorpe

Carol 135 – There's a Star in the East

Follow

Third Lesson: John 1:1-14

Page 862; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Our Christmas Gifts

RESPOND AND SERVE

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Christmas Child,

Bring in your light and love.

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 and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

SEND AND BLESS

Reading: *Glory to God in the High St.*, by George MacLeod

* **Carol 119** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Mendelssohn*

* **Closing Responses**

The Word of God has become flesh.

Christ has come into our world.

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace.

We go to share the gift of Jesus.

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**



WEEKLY NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

USHERS & GREETERS: Margot Watson, Alice Haskins, Mispa Ngo Nguidjoi (10:00); Tracy Krzys, Jonathan Thornhill (Tech Crew)

THE POINSETTIAS gracing our Sanctuary this Christmas Season have been graciously given by members of the congregation.

GODLY PLAY & THE WORSHIP BRIDGE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25 - Godly Play & The Worship Bridge will not meet.

Sunday, January 1 - Godly Play and The Worship Bridge will meet.

Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning each week.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP! 2017 Offering Envelopes are in Branch Hall, please pick up yours today!

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:

Closed - *Monday, December 26 - Wednesday, December 28, 2016*

Open - Thursday, December 29, 2016 - 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed - *Friday, December 30, 2016 & Monday, January 2, 2017*

Happy New Year!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Is on Christmas Break! Remember to do your Christmas Break project!

Next class is *Thursday, January 12, 2017, 6:45-8:30 p.m.*

CELEBRATE YOUR SHARING – Annual Response Program (ARP)

It's not too late to participate...Turn in your Estimate of Giving Pledge now to impact the 2017 budget so that your Church can thrive and grow.

ARP Program status as of 12/19:

➤ Pledges Received = 159 (Goal 200, Last Year 181)

➤ Pledged Gifts = \$629,890 (Goal \$700,000, Last Year \$638,689)

GUIDE TO PRAYER FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25

Please pray for: Jon Barnett, Jeff Beale, Darlene Brown, Virginia Callegary, Joan Channel, Burta Cherry, Jean Ellestad, Margaret Farthing, Morton and Sue Lowcock Harris, Dorothy Heinks, Jerry Hinkel, Bonnie Jones, Dottie Kingsley, Gertrude Leamer, Robert & Vivian Miller, Nancy Pickard, Bob Reese, Christina, Anna, Lauren and Caroline Siedlecki, Maria Slack, Bunny Sturgill, Shirley Weingarten, Stan Werner, Shirley Wolf, Al & Beth Wyrick

Extended Care: Jim Leslie, Miller's Grant

Hospitalized: Web Brenner, *Dave Dittman*

Family & Friends: Jimmy Galdieri's mother, Marie Galdieri

PCUSA Mission Coworkers: Jeff and Christi Boyd in Congo; Amanda Craft and Omar Chan with the Presbyterian Border Region Outreach (PBRO) along the US-Mexico border; Jed and Jenny Koball in Peru.

Memorial Garden: We remember to God, Thomas Smith Jones, October 2, 1935-January 25, 2016, whose ashes were placed in the Memorial Garden, Friday, December 16, 2016 in a Committal Service. The church extends prayers and warm support to his family: Bonnie Jones, all members of the church, and to all of Tom's family and friends.

*Please contact the church office, 410-730-3545 or one of the Pastors:
Morton Harris, 443-824-3768 or Sue Lowcock Harris, 443-824-4305
with the prayers and concerns that you would like to share.*



THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE focuses the prayers of Christians week by week, so that over the year all the countries of the world are prayed for. We begin our year praying for: *Ghana, Nigeria*

Give thanks for the endless source of inspiration that pilgrims of Islam, Christianity and Judaism find in the sacred places in the land called holy.

Pray for:

- *The curtailment of deforestation;*
- *A more just distribution of wealth and power;*
- *An end to human rights abuses against minority groups;*
- *Those who suffer from malnutrition and diseases such as malaria, whooping cough and HIV and AIDS;*
- *Better stewardship of the environment and natural resources.*

For more information about the Prayer Cycle,
visit the website of the World Council of Churches: www.oikoumene.org



LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY 2017

Sunday, January 1, 2017 – Epiphany Sunday, Communion

One service at 10:00 a.m. Church School on Christmas Break

All are welcome to the New Year's Day Brunch at 11:00 a.m. in Buck Hall

Friday, January 6, 2017

Ministry Area 2016 Annual Reports Due, send to fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org

Saturday, January 7, 2017

Take Down Christmas, 10:00 a.m.

Snow Ball for Senior Highs, 6:00-11:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 8, 2017 - Baptism of the Lord - Communion

Worship at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Church School – The Education Hour for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

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 Pastor Morton.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County



9325 Presbyterian Circle Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | www.firstpreschc.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

mharris@firstpreschc.org
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fpcadmin@firstpreschc.org
bookkeeper@firstpreschc.org
sexton@firstpreschc.org
GodlyPlay@firstpreschc.org
rbell@firstpreschc.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 Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115