

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2017

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.

Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.

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

*When you love you should not say, "God is in my heart,"
but rather, "I am in the heart of God."*

Kahlil Gibran

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being:

**Help us to choose life in you,
that we may keep the commands of Jesus,
follow the promptings of the Spirit,
and witness to the hope that is within us,
sharing Christ's love in the world.**

Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, Son of Mary
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Savior of the World,
Make peace within us.

Christ, King of Glory:
Be with us and for us, wherever life takes us.

Living Christ,
we confess that we look for the living among the dead.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not forgiven others as you have forgiven us.
We have not kept your commandment to love one another.
Forgive us, and give us your grace.
Shape us into your new people
filled with your resurrection life —
a life that death cannot destroy;
we ask these things in your name.

(We take time for quiet, personal prayer...)

Assurance of Grace

* **Sharing the Peace**

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

*We greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.
A touch on the shoulder, a nod, a bow – can be a substitute
for handshakes to hinder the spread of the flu.*

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

Friedman Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia!

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Page 934; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: John 15:9-17

Page 878; 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 The Gospel in a Word

The Rev. Walt Peters

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

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

from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.

Jesus Christ is God with humankind:

the eternal Son of the Father,

who became human and lived among us

to fulfill the work of reconciliation;

present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit

to continue and complete his mission.

The risen Christ is the savior of all people.

Those joined to Christ by faith are set right with God

and commissioned to serve as God's reconciling community.

Christ is head of this community, the church,

which began with the apostles

and continues through all generations.

* **Hymn 203**

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Chereponi

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of new life:

Hear our prayer.

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 754** Help Us Accept Each Other *Baronita*

* **Closing Responses**

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

Let the sea roar and all that fills it!

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

Let the trees of the wood sing for joy!

For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

* **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 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.firstpreshec.org



Ministers: All members of the congregation

Dr. O. Morton Harris, Jr., Co-Pastor	mharris@firstpreshec.org
Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor	sharris@firstpreshec.org
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education	vcallegary@firstpreshec.org
James Galdieri, Director of Music Ministries	jgaldieri@firstpreshec.org
Caroline Smith, Church Administrator	fpcadmin@firstpreshec.org
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@firstpreshec.org
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton	sexton@firstpreshec.org
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator	GodlyPlay@firstpreshec.org
Marla Youkers, Child Care Coordinator	
The Rev. Ruth Bell, Parish Visitor	rbell@firstpreshec.org
The Rev. T. Webster Brenner, Parish Associate	
The Rev. Stephen Mann, Parish Associate	

We are an Earth Care Congregation ☩

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

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