

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Akwaaba! Welcome!*  
*September 10, 2017*

*10:30 a.m.*

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## 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)*

*A church is a place where we try to think, speak, and act in God's way,  
not in the way of a fear-filled world.*

*William Sloane Coffin*

### Gathering Music

#### 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

The world belongs to God

**The earth and all its people.**

How good it is, how wonderful

**To live together in unity.**

Love and faith come together;

**Justice and peace join hands.**

If Christ's disciples keep silent,

**These walls would shout aloud!**

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

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

## Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

O God, author and giver of all good things:

**plant in our hearts the love of your name;**

**increase in us a true and deep faith;**

**nourish us with all goodness;**

**and bring forth in us the fruit of good works;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

\* Hymn 49

The God of Abraham Praise

*Leoni*

## 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.**

**Forgive us, O God,**

**for the right roads we avoided travelling,**

**and the kind words we refused to share.**

**Forgive us, O God,**

**for the false gods who have received our worship**

**and the true selves we have starved of love.**

**Forgive us, O God,**

**for the hidden hurts we have held too tightly**

**and the promises which we never kept**

**and the lame excuses we should never have made.**

**For all we should be, and all we can amend,**

**in your love, renew us.**

**For all you have in store for us**

**and all you may demand of us,**

**in your love, prepare us.**

**For the life of the world**

**and the love of its people,**

**in your love, commit us.**

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

## Assurance of Grace

\* **Response of Praise 582** (*singing together*) *Goodness 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.**

*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 700, verse 1** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*  
(*singing together*)

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

**Words of Welcome**

**A Moment of Greeting** – The Rev. Jesus Rodriguez

## ENCOUNTER

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Matthew 18:18-20

*Page 799; pew Bible*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalter Hymn 550** Give Praise to the Lord, Psalm 149 *Laudate Dominum*

**Children's Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

*Afterwards, children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play.  
Parents can pick up their children following worship in Rooms 110 & 113.*

*Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to  
The Worship Bridge. They will return to worship later in the service.*

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.

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**

Exodus: Holy Ground

Sue Lowcock Harris

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

## **RESPOND AND SERVE**

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

*from the Iona Community*

We believe in God,  
whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,  
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,  
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,  
and whose love, defeating even death,  
is our glorious promise of freedom.  
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,  
in God we trust;  
and, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,  
to seek justice and to live in peace,  
to care for the earth  
and to share the common wealth of God's goodness,  
to live in the freedom of forgiveness  
and the power of the spirit of love,  
and in the company of the faithful so to be the church,  
for the glory of God.

Thanks be to God!

**\* Hymn 450**

Be Thou My Vision

*Slane*

### **Concerns and Remembrances**

#### **Prayers of Gratitude and Concern**

God of abundant grace,  
**Hear our prayers.**

#### **Concluding Prayer** *(together)*

Eternal God,  
you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## The Offering

### Offertory Anthem

For the Beauty of the Earth

*Rutter*

### \* Doxology 300, verse 4 *(singing together)*

*We Are One in the Spirit*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

### \* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

With gratitude to the giver of life,  
**we offer our lives to the Lord.**

*(We stand quietly as the liturgist offers a prayer.)*

## SEND AND BLESS

### This Week at First Presbyterian Church

### \* Hymn 405

Praise God for This Holy Ground

*Heymonystraat*

### \* Closing Responses

This is the day that God has made;

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

We will not offer to God

**Offerings that cost us nothing.**

Go in peace to love and serve;

**We will seek peace and pursue it.**

In the name of the Trinity of Love

**God in community, Holy and One.**

### \* Benediction

### \* Response 409, verse 4

*God Is Here!*

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

### \* Postlude



**WORSHIP NOTES:** We are singing the Psalter Lesson during the months of September and October in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Singing versified settings of the Psalms is a particular gift of our Reformed Tradition to the Protestant churches.

# 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; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Morton or Pastor Sue.

## The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | [www.firstpreshc.org](http://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 ☩

*Inspirit Counseling Services* at First Presbyterian Church

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