

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

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)*

*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

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.

Prelude

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 405**

Praise God for This Holy Ground

Heymonystraat

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

* **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 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.

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*

Second Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

Page 44; 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 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!

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 49** The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

* **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**

* **Postlude**



WORSHIP NOTES: We are singing the Psalter Lesson during the months of September and October in celebration of the 500th 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

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 ☩

Inspired Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

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