

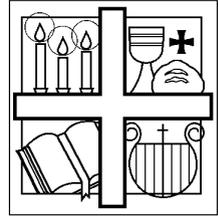
# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*October 22, 2017*

*8:30 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)*

*I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness –  
it's right in front of me if I'm paying attention and practicing gratitude.*

*Brene Brown*

### 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 beams 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.**

Holy One, Name Unnamed,  
you faithfully keep the promises you made to our ancestors  
and you lead your people into the future.

**Help us who inherit the pilgrim life  
to journey faithfully,  
that we may be a band of disciples  
who are sojourners in your service.  
Amen.**

\* **Hymn 65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*CWM Rhondda*

## **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.**

**God our redeemer,  
we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm.  
Our world shows little evidence  
of the justice and righteousness you love.  
We do not honor you with our lives.  
We worship wealth and power,  
forgetting that all things belong to you.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Give us the grace we need to amend our lives  
until we become the people you intended us to be.**

*(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 62** *(singing together)*

*Love the Lord Your God*

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.  
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.  
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.  
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

**Words of Welcome**

**A Moment for Grateful Giving**

**ENCOUNTER**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Matthew 22:15-22

*Page 803; pew Bible*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

\* **Psalter Hymn 687**

*St. Anne*

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (Psalm 90)

**Second Lesson:** Deuteronomy 34:1-12

*Page 168 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: Transitions

*Morton Harris*

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

## RESPOND AND SERVE

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

*from The Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

## Concerns and Remembrances

### Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of life,

**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**

**Moment for Mission** – Deacons Holiday Projects – Judy Dye McCormick

\* **Hymn 766**      The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound      *Mc Kee*

### \* **Closing Responses**

We drink the water of life;

**We bear witness to God's goodness.**

We share the bread of new creation;

**We bear witness to God's abundance.**

We go out into God's world in joy;

**We live as God's people of peace.**

### \* **Benediction**

### \* **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 at the New Member Class is Today Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 11:30 a.m..

## 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

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410.730.3545 | [www.firstpreshec.org](http://www.firstpreshec.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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The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of the Presbytery of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

✠ 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