

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thank and Tell Sunday
November 12, 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)*

*I feel a hand holding my hand, it's not a hand you can see,
but on the road to the promised land, this hand will shepherd me
through delight and despair, holding tight and always there...*

*Grateful, grateful, truly grateful I am grateful, grateful,
truly blessed and duly grateful.*

John Bocchino

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

We will declare all we have heard and known.

We will proclaim all our ancestors have told us.

Do not hide these things from your children.

**We will proclaim to coming generations
the wonders God has done.**

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 of love and justice,
whose fire of love never goes out:

Illumine our way through life.

Give us the light we need.

**Free us from fear of scarcity
and renew our trust in your abundance
which knows no death and keeps no count.
Amen.**

* **Hymn 362**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Llangloffan

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.

**Living God, Alpha and Omega,
you have prepared a new creation for us
but we are unprepared for its coming.
We are distracted by all that glitters,
and continually grasp for more.**

We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.

We ignore those who cry out for justice and freedom.

Forgive us. Make us new. Light our path.

**Increase our faith in you,
and keep us mindful and watchful,
that we may serve you with joy.**

(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.*

*** Song of Thanksgiving (singing together)**

Solomon Major

1. For the gifts of beau - ty joy and light We give thanks to you, O
 2. For all that's kind and good and true We give thanks to you, O

God. For the laugh-ter and the tears be - sides We give thanks to you, O
 God. Let us learn to live in grat - i - tude We give thanks to you, O

God. We give thanks, we give thanks to you, O God; all our
 God.

thanks and praise they could nev-er be e - nough. For the chance to learn and
 love and give We give thanks to you, O God.

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Amos 5:18-24

Page 747; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

Page 807; 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

Expectations

Sue Lowcock Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

* Affirmation of Faith

*adapted from A Declaration of Faith (chapter 9)
and The Book of Order (W-5.5005)*

We are called to discipleship.

Christ gives us and demands of us
personal lives that are centered in God
and open to God's reality and rule.

Christ teaches us to put obedience to God
above the interests of self, family, race or nation;
to offer God joyously, and fearlessly
our money, ability and time.

Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other's good,
and to share what we have.

We who follow the discipline of Christian stewardship
are called to lives of simplicity, generosity, honesty,
hospitality, compassion, receptivity
and concern for the earth and God's creatures.

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of light,
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.

A Moment for Grateful Giving

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Grateful
Suzie Jamaris, soloist

by John Bucchino

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 350** Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning *Keep Your Lamps*

* **Closing Responses**

On our heads and our houses,

The blessing of God.

In our coming and going

The peace of God.

In our life and believing

The love of God.

At our end and new beginning

The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home.

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



The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

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Ministers: All members of the congregation



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The Rev. Ruth Bell, Parish Visitor

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The Rev. T. Webster Brenner, Parish Associate

The Rev. Stephen Mann, Parish Associate

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

