

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017

10:00 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)*

*Bethlehem is where we live. The stable is our town.
Christ is being born now, here, and we should pay attention.*

Neil MacGregor

Gathering Music

Greensleeves

Purvis

Greeting

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

And also with you.

[We take a moment to prepare to worship, and then continue:]

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

*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.*

Song

Am I Awake?

Aronson

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

God of impossible love,
you needed Mary to give consent,
to bear scandal,
to carry your word within herself:
**may her courage give hope
to women and men who yearn to sing
new songs of justice
and find the world a dwelling place for God;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.
Amen.**

* **Lighting the Advent Candles**

The evening of the year is upon us.

We enter the darkness and wait for light's return.

All of our waiting is waiting for God.

God of our hearts, we wait for you alone.

We lit the first candle to remind us of God's holy light
which has come to earth in Jesus Christ.

We lit a second candle to remind us
that this holy light named Jesus lights our path.

We lit a third candle to remind us
that the holy light of justice shines in the prophet's word.

We light a fourth candle to remind us
that visions and angels may still light our way.

**We open our hearts to this holy light,
and ask for love and joy
that dares to welcome Christ into our world.**

(We watch as a candle is lighted.)

Let there be light!

* **Response of Praise 113, refrain**

Angels We Have Heard on High

(singing together)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* **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, 121, verse 4**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(singing together)

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Page 831; pew Bible

Let there be Light!
There is Light!

Anthem No Wind at the Window
Rebecca Curran, soloist

Columille

Second Lesson: Luke 1:46b-55

Page 832; pew Bible

Let there be Light!
There is Light!

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, who normally attend The Worship Bridge will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.

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.

* Hymn 100

Star of the County Down

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
Canticle of the Turning

Third Lesson: Luke 2:1-5

Page 832; pew Bible

Let there be Light!
There is Light!

The Census

How Far Is It?

Mary's Journey

* Hymns

Hymn 146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Tempus Adest Floridum

Hymn 115

Away in a Manger

Mueller

RESPOND AND SERVE

* A Declaration for Advent

Among the poor, among the proud,
Among the persecuted, among the privileged,
Christ is coming!

Christ is coming to make all things new.

In the private house, in the market place,
In the wedding feast, in the judgment hall,
Christ is coming!

Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word,
With a clear conscience, with burning love,
Christ is coming!

Christ is coming to make all things new.

That peace may come, that hope may shine,
That the powerful might stumble,
that the humble might be raised,
Christ is coming!

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, among us, before us,
In this place, in every place, for this time, for all time,
Christ is coming!

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

God our deliverer,
whose approaching birth
still shakes the foundations of our world:
may we so wait for your coming
with eagerness and hope
that we embrace without terror
the labor pangs of the new age,
which is coming through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 145** What Child Is This *Greensleeves*

* **Closing Responses**

Beware, keep alert, keep awake!

God is doing awesome things we did not expect.

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

* **Benediction**

* **Response 314, verse 1**

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

* **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

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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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 Michalczuk 410-433-8861 x115