

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

*Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord
Communion*

January 7, 2018

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)*

Follow the light you have, and pray for more light.

George MacLeod

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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

Over the waters of creation, God spoke:

Let there be light!

Over the waters of the Jordan, God spoke:

This is my son, the beloved one!

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.

Spirit of energy and change,
in whose power Jesus was anointed
to be the hope of the world:

**Pour yourself out upon us too,
without reserve or distinction.**

**Inspire us with your Spirit
to join Christ's transforming work,
that we may have confidence and strength
to plant your justice on the earth.**

Amen.

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.

Creating God,

we confess that we fail to live in your light.

You made us in your own image,

but we tarnish your good name.

You call us your beloved children,

but we take your favor for granted.

You share your love with every people,

but we draw limits around your love,

using race and creed.

Forgive us, God of grace,

and from your compassionate heart,

pour your mercy upon us

so that we may live in a way that is pleasing to you;

through Jesus Christ, our life, our hope, our peace.

(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 147 verse 6 *(singing together)*

The First Nowell

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Page 1; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

Page 812; 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

In the Beginning

Sue Lowcock Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

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

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* **Hymn 488**

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Waterlife

Concerns and Remembrances

Minute for Mission – Cold Weather Shelter

The Offering

Offertory

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God is here.

The Spirit is with us.

People of God, open your hearts.

We open them to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the living God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[The pastors continue to lead us in prayer. We gather up all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as we pray 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.

Breaking the Bread

Communion of the People

*We will receive communion this morning
by passing the bread and the cup to one another in the pew.
Gluten-free bread is in the paper cup in the center of the bread tray.
The outer circle is white grape juice; the inner circles are red wine.*

*Our tradition is to eat the bread as it comes to you,
and then to hold the cup so we may commune together.*

Music at Communion

Prayer After Communion

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 547** Go, My Children, with My Blessing *Ar Hyd Y Nos*

* **Closing Responses**

The Word of God has become flesh.

Christ has come into our world.

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth.

Go in peace.

We go to share the gift of Jesus.

* **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

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 Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115