

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 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)*

*Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.
Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.*

Howard Thurman

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

God calls to us by name.

With Samuel we answer: Here I am.

Christ calls us to follow:

With Philip and Nathaniel, we rise and go.

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.

Insistent God,

by night and by day you summon your slumbering people.

So stir us with your voice

and enlighten our lives with your grace

that we give ourselves fully

to Christ's call to mission and ministry.

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 (singing together)**

Alleluia Con Brio

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Page 215; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: John 1:43-51

Page 863; 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 Greater Things Than These

Morton Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

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

An Affirmation based on the Writings of Dr. King

We refuse to believe that we are unable to influence
the events which surround us.

We refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war,
that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.

We believe there is an urgent need
for people to overcome oppression and violence,
without resorting to violence and oppression.

We believe that we need to discover
a way to live together in peace,
a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation.

The foundation of this way is love.

We believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love
will have the final word in reality.

We believe that right temporarily defeated
is stronger than evil triumphant.

We believe that peoples everywhere can have
three meals a day for their bodies,
education and culture for their minds,
and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

We believe that what self-centered people have torn down,
other-centered people can build up.

By the goodness of God at work within people,
we believe that brokenness can be healed.

“And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together,
and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree,
and none shall be afraid.”

Thanks be to God!

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Fountain of goodness,
Hear our prayer

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.

Minute for Mission – Cold Weather Shelter

The Offering

Offertory

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 339** Lift Every Voice and Sing *Lift Every Voice*

* **Closing Responses**

We are the beloved community of God.
In water, God claims us.
In calling, God leads us.
Claimed and called, we go to proclaim:
Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

* **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.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