



An Order for Easter Sunrise

6:30 a.m.
April 1, 2018

The Woodlands Chapel

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Gathering

*As we gather, please be sure to get a white ribbon and a pen
from one of the greeters.*

There are also bells to ring for the Alleluias!

Words of Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

[We pause to listen to the voice of creation.]

This is the Good News:

the grave is empty and Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the Good news:

*the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out,
for Christ is risen!*

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the Good News:

*Once we were no people,
but now we are God's people,
for Christ is risen!*

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Morning Hymn—Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ our heavenly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinner to redeem and save. Alleluia!
3. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

A Prayer for Easter

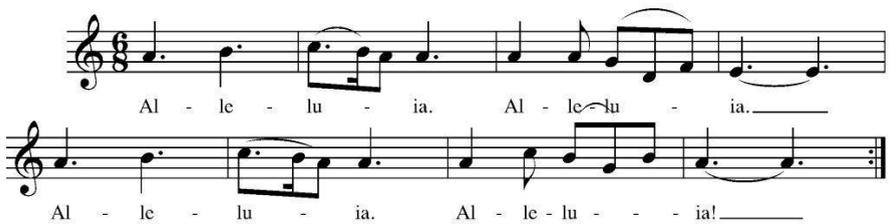
*Holy God,
you are unlimited by mortal fear or the tomb's cold grip.
In the lingering dark,
give us grace
to know your life triumphant,
and your love undimmed
in the face of Jesus Christ,
the first born from the dead.
Amen.*

Sharing the Peace

*The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

[We greet one another with signs of peace]

Song—Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. _____
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - - - ia! _____

Scripture Lesson: John 20:1-18

*The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.*

*[We will share a few moments of silence
as we consider the Easter story.]*

A Prayer of Response

*When we are all despairing;
when the world is full of grief;
when we see no way ahead, and hope has gone away:
Roll back the stone.*

*Although we fear change;
although we are not ready;
although we'd rather weep and run away:
Roll back the stone.*

*Because we're coming with the women;
Because we hope where hope is vain;
Because you call us from the grave and show the way.
Roll back the stone*

Song—Celtic Alleluia



A Litany of Resurrection Appearances

O risen Christ, who in your first appearance to Mary was mistaken for a gardener...

**Be present, be present, Jesus Christ, good High Priest,
as you were in the midst of your disciples,
and show yourself to us in all our mistakes and uncertainties.**

O risen Christ, who appeared to your dejected disciples on the road to Emmaus, and opened to them the scripture so that their hearts burned within them...

**Be present, be present, Jesus Christ, good High Priest,
as you were in the midst of your disciples,
and set our hearts on fire with love for you.**

O risen Christ, who gave to your distraught and distracted followers the assurance of healing and forgiveness...

**Be present, be present, Jesus Christ, good High Priest,
as you were in the midst of your disciples,
and bring together all Christians in peace and harmony.**

O risen Christ, who, mindful of the needs of your disciples, prepared a meal by the shores of the Sea of Galilee...

**Be present, be present, Jesus Christ, good High Priest,
as you were in the midst of your disciples,
and make yourself known in all acts of hospitality and sharing.**

O risen Christ, who in your final appearance on the Mount of Olives lifted up hands of blessing on all human life...

**Be present, be present, Jesus Christ, good High Priest,
as you were in the midst of your disciples,
and grant that our prayers and praises today
may be taken up into yours on behalf of the world.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Spend a few moments in personal prayer, and write on your ribbon a word or two to represent a person, a place, or a circumstance – for whom you pray for God’s new life or for which you give thanks.

We will pin these prayers to the white cloth on the cross

When all are done, we will join together in prayer.



Living God, hear our prayer:

Make this world your new creation!

Before we call, you answer, O God.

Before we speak, you know our words.

Let there be joy in Jerusalem, and peace among all nations.

Make this world your new creation!

Let the sounds of weeping and cries of distress

Turn to shouts of joy and laughter.

Make this world your new creation!

Let infants grow and thrive; let the old dance like children.

Make this world your new creation!

Let every person find a home and enjoy the fruit of their labor.

Make this world your new creation!

Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace;

Let no one hurt or destroy another.

Make this world your new creation!

*Show us, O God, the holy mountain you have prepared
so that we may be glad and rejoice in your presence forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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.

Song – Christ Be My Leader

Tune: “Be Thou My Vision”

1. Christ be our leader by night and by day;
Safe through the darkness, for Christ is the way.
Gladly we follow, our future to share,
Darkness is daylight when Christ Jesus is there.
2. Christ be our teacher in age and in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for Christ is the truth.
May God grant us trust, though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt us; in Christ Jesus we stand.
3. Christ be our Savior in calm and in strife;
Death cannot hold us, for Christ is the life.
Nor darkness, nor doubting, nor sin and its stain
Can touch our salvation: with Christ Jesus we reign.

Closing Prayer (together)

**We praise you, O God, and give you thanks
that you have given us such joy, such grace, such hope,
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Let our lives be proof of that good news.
Let our words and actions, our love and service,
bear witness to your resurrection power;
for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Closing Responses

Look! God is creating a new heaven and a new earth.

Alleluia!

The events of the past will be completely forgotten.

Alleluia!

Be glad and rejoice forever in what God is creating.

Alleluia!

*For this is the same God
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead,
and whose Spirit goes before you into the world.*

Alleluia!

So, go in peace.

*The God of creation, resurrection and eternity
be with you this day and always.*

Alleluia!



*Please linger by the fire,
or come inside to Lyle Buck Hall for Breakfast,
then join us for Worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.*

Stop by the Peace Pole to place a flower and say a prayer.

Children will be hunting Easter Eggs on the Lawn at 11:30 a.m.!



The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

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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

Marla Youkers

Child Care Coordinator

Sarah Reinhardt

Child Care Worker

Kathy Moore

Godly Play Coordinator

The Rev. Ruth Bell

Parish Visitor

The Rev. T. Webster Brenner

Parish Associate

We are an Earth Care Congregation