

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Second Sunday of Easter

Baptism

April 8, 2018

10:30 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)*

God's love doesn't seek value, it creates value. It is not because we have value that we are loved, but because we are loved that we have value.

Our value is a gift, not an achievement.

William Sloane Coffin

Gathering Music

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Light of the world, shine upon us.

Shine upon us

and disperse the clouds of our selfishness,

**that we may reflect the power of the resurrection
in our life together.**

Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, Son of Mary
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Savior of the World,
Make peace within us.

Christ, King of Glory:
Be with us and for us, wherever life takes us.

**A God of all hope and joy,
we confess that we continue to live in fear.
We struggle to live the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**We say that we have not seen you,
yet you show us yourself in Word and Spirit,
in signs and wonders, in flesh and blood.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

**Breathe on us
and set us free from doubt and sin,
so that we may be at peace with you,
and live as your beloved children,
through Jesus Christ our teacher, our brother, our Lord.**

(We take time for quiet, personal prayer...)

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 581** *(singing together)*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

* **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!

Alleluia!

Words of Welcome

The Sacrament of Baptism

Katherine Elise Ritter, daughter of Elizabeth and Jesse Ritter
Andrew Michael Ventre, son of Brian and Ann Ventre
Matthew Charles Ventre, son of Brian and Ann Ventre

* **Hymn 486**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Kingdom

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Acts 4:32-35

Page 888; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

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, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to
The Worship Bridge. They will return to worship later in the service.*

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.

Second Lesson: John 20:19-31

Page 883; 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!

Choral Response 243

Be Not Afraid

(singing together)

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Sermon Locked in a Room with Open Doors

Sue Lowcock Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

- * **Hymn 250** In the Bulb There Is a Flower *Promise*
- * **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.

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of new life:
Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer (*together*)

*Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty
and restore all things through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
We pray that, where your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, warfare and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear
in justice, love and peace, to the glory of your name.
Amen.*

The Offering

Offertory Anthem With A Voice of Singing *Shaw*

- * **Doxology 654** (*singing together*) *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

- * **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

All that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours, O Lord.
And of your own we give you.
(We stand quietly as the liturgist offers a prayer.)

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 257, verses 1-3** The Risen Christ

Woodlands

* **Closing Responses**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the peace of God

We carry Christ's love into the world.

In company with Christ

We live resurrection life.

With our lives we proclaim:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

* **Benediction**

* **Response 257, verse 4**

The Risen Christ

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.

* **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) 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.

New Member Orientation explores what it means to be part of the First Church household. The next orientation is Sunday, April 22nd at noon. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend or need childcare.

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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Marla Youkers, Child Care Coordinator

Sarah Reinhardt, Child Care Worker

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

