

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*April 15, 2018*

*10:30 a.m.*

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## 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)*

*It is clear that the greatest evils of humanity are due to lack of love, and that the New Testament's "miraculous catch" (see Luke 5) was not the haddock and shad and whatever else Peter and the rest of them caught that day, but the fact that Peter and the rest were caught up, even as we are in the net of Christ's love.*

*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.**

Creating God, you are the author of life.

**Open our souls to understand your way.**

**Fill us with your eternal peace.**

**Give us wisdom and courage**

**to live as witnesses to the resurrection of Christ,**

**your Son and our Brother,**

**who pours out your love into the world, now and forever.**

**Amen.**



# ENCOUNTER

## Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson:** 1 John 3:1-7

*Page 990; 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:** Luke 24:36-48

*Page 861; 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

Right Before Our Eyes

*Sue Lowcock Harris*

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

## RESPOND AND SERVE

- \* **Hymn 231**      Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers      *Suo Gan*
- \* **Affirmation of Faith** (*together*)      *from A Declaration of Faith (1977)*

Jesus is our living Lord.  
Jesus was dead and buried,  
but God raised him from the dead.  
The risen Lord appeared to his followers.  
They recognized him as their Master  
who had been crucified...

We are certain that Jesus lives.  
Jesus lives as God with us,  
touching all of human life with the presence of God.  
Jesus lives as one of us with God.  
Because he shares our humanity  
and has bound us to himself in love,  
we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.

Jesus is Lord!  
Jesus has been Lord from the beginning,  
and will be Lord at the end.  
Even now Jesus Christ is Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

### Concerns and Remembrances

#### Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of new life:  
**Hear our prayer.**

#### Concluding Prayer (*together*)

O God, open our hearts to your power moving  
around us and between us and within us,  
until your glory is revealed  
in our love of both friend and enemy,  
in communities transformed by justice and compassion  
and in the healing of all that is broken.  
Amen.

**The Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

\* **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**

**Minute for Mission** – Run for Coffee

*Becky Torrance*

\* **Hymn 314** Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

*Christ, Be Our Light*

\* **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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | [www.firstpreshc.org](http://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  
Sarah Reinhardt, Child Care Worker  
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