

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Earth Day

April 22, 2018

10:30 a.m.



Earth Day

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 works in creation are too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful,
too good to be desecrated. Restoring creation is God's own work in our time, in
which God comes both to judge and to restore.*

PCUSA Environmental Policy (1990)

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, your name is written on every leaf;

**Your name, O God is written on every bird, every river,
every stone, every living being.**

We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation.

Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth

**and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation,
through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed.**

Amen.

* **Song** He Is Exalted *Twila Paris*

* **Hymn 36** For the Fruit of All Creation *Ar Hyd Y Nos*

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.

**God of all hope and joy,
we confess that we continue to live in fear.**

**We speak of your great, expansive love
but our own hearts condemn us.**

**We express concern for the poor,
and we pray for the renewal of the earth,
but our own actions betray us.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

**Breathe on us with your Spirit
and restore our souls,**

**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** (*singing together*) *Levine*

Hallelu, Hal-le-lu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Hallelu, Hallelujah, Amen.
(repeat)

How good it is that we should be together
Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, neighbor and friend.
Reaching out, find a way building bridges for tomorrow.
Mending hearts, making peace begins with us today.

* **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** *Alleluia!*
(singing together)

Alleluia!

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 23
(read in unison)

Page 435; 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 10:11-18

Page 872; 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 Green Meadows and Still Waters *Sue Lowcock Harris*
(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

RESPOND AND SERVE

- * **Affirmation of Faith** (*responsive*) *from A Declaration of Faith (1977)*

God created all the worlds that are
and upholds and rules everything.

**We affirm that the universe exists
by the power of God's Word and Spirit.**

**God has chosen to give it reality
our of the love we have come to know in Christ.**

God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on it.

**We acknowledge we share in the interdependence
that binds together all God's creation.**

**We hold the earth in trust
for future generations of living things.**

The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.

**The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people
and reflect God's love for all creatures.**

**The Lord bids us to use our technical skills
for beauty, order, health, and peace.**

Thanks be to God!

- * **Hymn 319** Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing *Smith*
Shout to the North

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of new life:

Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer (*together*)

O Breath of God, move among us this day.

Open us to the beauty of the earth

so that we may become its servants.

Open us to the wonder of life

so that we may recognize your presence in every corner.

Open us to the storehouse of your grace,

so that we will be made new for Jesus' sake.

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**

We belong to Christ Jesus.

All things are Christ's for Christ is Lord of all. Alleluia!

(We stand quietly as the liturgist offers a prayer.)

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

- * **Song** Lord, I Lift Your Name on High *Rick Founds*

- * **Closing Responses**

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

Let the sea roar and all that fills it!

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

Let the trees of the wood sing for joy!

For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

- * **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 today 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

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
Sarah Reinhardt, Child Care Worker
The Rev. Ruth Bell, Parish Visitor
The Rev. T. Webster Brenner, Parish Associate
The Rev. Stephen Mann, Parish Associate

mharris@firstpreshc.org
sharris@firstpreshc.org
vcallegary@firstpreshc.org
jgaldieri@firstpreshc.org
fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org
bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org
sexton@firstpreshc.org
GodlyPlay@firstpreshc.org

rbell@firstpreshc.org

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