

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*Earth Day*

*April 22, 2018*

*8:30 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)*

*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)*

### 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.**

### Prelude

#### 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.**

\* **Hymn 32** I Sing the Mighty Power of God *Ellacombe*

\* **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 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** *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!**

**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!



## 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 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

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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