

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
*April 29, 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)*

*Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.*

*Catherine of Siena*

### **Gathering Music**

Come, Thou Almighty King  
*The Handbell Choir*

*Arr. Groth*

### **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.**

Wondrous Vinegrower,  
you make all things new in water and word.

**You feed your people with love, joy and peace.**

**You lead us today and every day**

**to the places of new beginnings.**

**Teach us to love what you command,**

**and to prune what does not nourish your creation;**

**in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

\* **Hymn 245**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

Llanfair

**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 have not loved others as you have loved us.  
We extend your grace to all;  
we seek to cut-off and to exclude.  
Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Breathe on us  
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 587** *(singing together)*

*Celtic Alleluia*



**Words of Welcome**

# ENCOUNTER

## Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson:** John 15:1-18

*Page 878; 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:** Acts 8:26-40

*Page 892; 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** Unless Someone Guides Me

*Morton Harris*

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

## RESPOND AND SERVE

- \* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)* *from A Declaration of Faith (1977)*

**We declare that Jesus is Lord.  
His resurrection is a decisive victory  
over the powers that deform and destroy human life.  
His lordship is hidden.  
The world appears to be dominated by people and systems  
that do not acknowledge his rule.  
But his lordship is real.  
It demands our loyalty and sets us free  
from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.  
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty  
now belongs to Jesus Christ  
in every sphere of life.  
Jesus is Lord!  
He has been Lord from the beginning.  
He will be Lord at the end.  
Even now he is Lord.  
Thanks be to God!**

- \* **Hymn 22** *God of the Sparrow* *Roeder*

**Sending Out** – Commissioning Pat Curran -  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team

### **Concerns and Remembrances**

#### **Prayers of Gratitude and Concern**

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

#### **Concluding Prayer** *(together)*

**Eternal God,  
you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.  
Amen.**

## The Offering

**Offertory Anthem**      Crown Him with Many Crowns      *Arr. Wagner*

\* **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**

**Minute for Mission** – Mission Trip to Tarboro

\* **Hymn 247**      Now the Green Blade Rises      *Noël Nouvelet*

\* **Closing Responses**

God has called each of us by name.

**We are yours, O God.**

Do not fear, for God goes with you wherever you may go.

**We are yours, O God.**

Even when we pass through rough waters,

God will be with you.

**We are yours, O God.**

Go in peace to love and serve God and God's people.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

\* **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.

**We invite you to become a member** of First Church. Please speak with Morton or Sue or call the church office to set a time to meet.

## 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