

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 29, 2018

8:30 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)*

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

Catherine of Siena

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.

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.

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

Voice



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

5



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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!

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

ove 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!

Minute for Mission – Mission Trip to Tarboro

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of new life:
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (*together*)

**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.**

The Offering

Offertory

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

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

* **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**

* **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

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Ministers: All members of the congregation

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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

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