

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

May 13, 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)*

In the end, Love wins. It does win. We know it wins. When a person dies, love isn't turned off like a faucet. Love is an amazingly resilient part of us.

J. K. Rowling

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.

Alleluia!

Prelude

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God, Name Unnamed,
unheld by word, unbound by space,
power of love beyond all powers of earth:

lift us from cynicism, apathy and disillusionment.

Make us ready for your Spirit of transforming fire;

And turn our hearts to the mending of the world;

through Jesus Christ, the name above all names.

Amen.

- * **Hymn 744** Arise, Your Light Is Come! *Festal Song*
- * **Hymn 458** Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet *Thy Word*

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.

You invite us to share in Christ's ministry,
but we ignore the calling of our baptism.

You allow us to share in Christ's own life,
but we fail to believe this good news.

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 266, verse 3** *(singing together)* *Richmond*

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

- * **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 266, verse 4** (*singing together*)

Richmond

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Acts 1:15-17 and 21-26

Page 885; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: John 17:6-19

Page 879; 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

Your Word is Truth

Morton Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **Affirmation of Faith** (*together*)

from Colossians 1:15-20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in Christ all things were created,
in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers.
Christ is before all things,
the one in whom all things hold together.
Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and is the beginning, the first-born of the dead,
that in everything, Christ might come to have first place.
For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of the cross.
Thanks be to God!**

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

Minute for Mission – Trivia Night

Mandy Foust

* **Hymn 7** Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Norwich

* **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 indeed!

* **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 410-433-8861 x115