

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Transfiguration of the Lord
February 11, 2024

10:30 a.m. In-person & Livestream Service



GATHER

Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.

Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.

**please stand if you are able.*

Please remember to turn your cell phones to silent.

*This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet,
and you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

*For our online congregation - Let us know you are here! Post a greeting!
And remember that you can place a request in the Prayer Journal
in the comments on both You Tube and Facebook Live.*

Prelude

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Traditional, arr. Denton

Introit

This Little Light of Mine
The Ark and L.I.F.E. Chorus

Traditional, arr. Patterson

Lighting the Christ Candle

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Call to Worship

In glory Jesus meets us here

**raising us from depths of valley to the height of the mountain
carrying the weight of our humanity
to the heights of heavens glory.**

Let us worship from the mountain and hear again

"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

* Hymn 666

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Puer Nobis Nascitur

(see hymn on next page)

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright 666

1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
 2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, rain down your
 3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
 4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age

ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
 ra - diance from a - bove, and to our in - ward
 clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
 to our heart is born; O may we ev - er

liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing;
 hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
 shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - owed by the night.
 clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

This morning hymn is based on a Latin text attributed to a 4th-century bishop. It weaves various images of Christ as Light with light-based descriptions of each day's passing. It is set to a dance-like tune from at least the 15th century that enhances the energy in the text.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Maker of all:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, servant of the poor:

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life:

Have mercy on us.

God of Mercy and Grace,

you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth

to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:

Yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.

You give us the ministry of reconciliation:

Yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.

You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John

on the mountain of Transfiguration:

Yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our own lives.

You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:

Yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.

You bless our lives with boundless love:

Yet we fail to witness to that love,

and so keep others from knowing you.

Forgive our selfishness, we pray.

Transform us by your Spirit and your Word

into that which pleases you,

the image of Christ. Amen.

(A time of silence is kept during which individual confessions may be offered.)

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 582** (singing together)

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
 B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F[#]) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

* **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(We share peace with a nod or a bow, perhaps with hand on heart or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace. If worshipping from home, greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)

* **Response of Praise 656** (singing together)

We've Come This Far by Faith

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord, trust-ing in the ho-ly Word; God's nev-er failed us yet. O, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by faith. We've come this far by faith." The piano accompaniment features various textures, including chords, arpeggios, and triplets. The final system ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

Words of Welcome

*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.*

A Moment for Black History Month

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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 the sanctuary later in the worship service.*

(It is the church's policy to not put images of children on the livestream.)

**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.**

Anthem

True Light
Alexandria Crichlow, *soprano*

Keith Hampton

Second Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Listen To Him!
(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

Kenneth Page

RESPOND AND SERVE

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

Our hope is God, our holy Parent,
who makes all things and from whom all blessings flow.
God's faithfulness is the anchor of our hope.
Our trust is in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
More than a teacher,
His life, death, and resurrection
giving meaning to our existence.
Christ's faithfulness tethers us to holy mystery.
Our trust is in the Holy Spirit.
Blowing over and through creation, unexpected and untamed,
The Spirit stirs forgiveness, fruitfulness, and creates families.
The Spirit's faithfulness ties together past, present, and future.
Holy Trinity, One God, we believe you transfigure our faith. Amen.

* **Hymn 825**

Swing Low, Sweet Charity

Swing Low

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

825 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

The first system of musical notation for the refrain of 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home. *Fine*

The second system of musical notation for the refrain of 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine' above the treble staff.

(continues on next page)

1 I looked o-ver Jor-dan, and what did I see com-ing for to car-ry me home?
 2 If you get there be - fore I do, com-ing for to car-ry me home,
 3 The bright - est day that ev - er I saw, com-ing for to car-ry me home,
 4 I'm some-times up and some-times down, com-ing for to car-ry me home,

to Refrain

A band of an-gels com-ing af-ter me, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 tell all my friends I'm com - ing too, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 when Je - sus washed my sins a - way, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
 but still my soul feels heaven-ly bound, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,

While ostensibly based on Elijah's ascent into heaven (2 Kings 2:11), this African American spiritual also communicates the enslaved people's hope that they might find deliverance across a river (i.e. in the free states beyond the Ohio). Call-and-response singing enhances this piece.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Robert Nathaniel Dett, 1936
 Music Arr. © 1936, rev. Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

SWING LOW
 Irregular

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

**O God,
 whose beauty is beyond our imagining,
 and whose power we cannot comprehend:
 show us your glory
 as far as we can grasp it,
 and shield us
 from knowing more than we can bear
 until we may look upon you without fear,
 through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Ride on King Jesus
Alexandria Crichlow, *soprano*

Traditional, arr. Hall Johnson

*** Doxology 607 (singing together)**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Sending Out: Guatemala Stove Team

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

(continues on next page)

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the
light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

TEXT and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966
Text and Music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

HOUSTON
10.7.10.8 with refrain

*** Benediction**

* Response 742

We Will Walk with God

Sizohambia Naye



We will walk with God, my broth-ers; we will walk with God.
Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will walk with God, my sis-ters; we will walk with God.
Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.
Ngom - hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.
Ngom - hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.

Postlude

Fanfare

Jean-Josèph Mouret



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.

First Church Cares

To **notify staff** of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact churchoffice@firstpreshc.org or call 410-730-3545.

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, www.firstpreshc.org for more info.

Program Staff

If you need to talk with one of the staff, please contact them directly via email.

Rev. Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

For building emergencies contact, Church Sexton, Woody Collins, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org.

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The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

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Ministers: All members of the congregation

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries

Caroline Smith, Church Administrator

Pat Travers, Bookkeeper

Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton

Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator

Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator

Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

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 ✦

✦ We are a Matthew 25 Congregation ✦

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115

