

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*July 14, 2024*

*10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Service*

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## GATHER

*Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.*

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

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**

Prayer

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

### 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

Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him.

**Because of his love God has already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us his children - this was his pleasure and purpose.**

**ALL: Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son.**

\* **Hymn 35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

*Lobe Den Herren*

*(see next page for hymn)*

# 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Forgiven, holy, set apart.**

**Righteous, clean, blameless.**

**These are not words we would use to describe ourselves.**

**We know we are sinners, broken by the fall.**

**And yet, because of Jesus, you do not see us this way any longer.**

**You have changed us and renamed us.**

**God, we bring our sins before you today and confess that we have failed.**

**We have failed in forgiveness, patience, basic kindness, self-discipline and spiritual devotion.**

**We are needy and sorrowful. Forgive us, we pray.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us.**

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

### Assurance of Grace

\* **Response of Praise 48** *(singing together)*

*Rain Down*

Rain down; rain down;  
rain down your love on your people.

Rain down; rain down;  
rain down your love, God of life.

\* **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 worshiping from home, greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)*

\* **Response of Praise 59** *(singing together)*

*The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
God's mercies never come to an end.  
They are new every morning, new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness, O Lord,  
great is your faithfulness.

### Words of Welcome

*Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information on the Visitor Card in the pew rack! Place the Visitor Card in the offering plate.*

## ENCOUNTER

### Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson:** Psalm 24

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

<sup>2</sup>for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup>Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

<sup>5</sup>They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

<sup>6</sup>Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup>Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah  
The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sending Out** – Massanetta Middle School Conference

### 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.**

**Second Lesson:** Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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**

[nerdblameless.com](http://nerdblameless.com)

*Kenneth Page*

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

## RESPOND AND SERVE

### \* Affirmation of Faith

Leader: How blessed is God! And what a blessing God is to us and to the world!

**Women: Long before God laid the earth's foundations, the Lord chose us to belong to God.**

**Men: We are chosen to be made whole and holy by God's love.**

Leader: God adopted us, making us part of the divine family.

**Women: Adopting us was part of God's plan and will. It also brought God great delight!**

**Men: Not only are we God's children, we are redeemed because of what Jesus Christ did for us.**

Leader: Jesus poured out his blood on our behalf and forgave our sins.

**Women: God set us free -- abundantly free -- from the penalties of our misdeeds. Praise God!**

**Men: God provided for everything we could possibly need.**

Leader: It is in Christ that we discover who we are and what we are created to be.

**Women: The Holy Spirit is the sign, seal and promise that God can be trusted.**

**Men: A glorious inheritance awaits us as God's beloved people.**

**All: Hallelujah! May it be so! Amen.**

### \* Hymn 731

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

*Repton*

*(see next page for hymn)*

# 731 Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G)  
E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm A<sup>b</sup>

1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -  
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere  
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling  
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

(D) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (A) (F#m)  
E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm B<sup>b</sup> Gm

round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so  
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the  
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an  
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

(Bm) (G) (Em) (A7) (D)  
Cm A<sup>b</sup> Fm B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>

while they live and when they die how force - ful -  
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on  
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -  
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

(A7) (B) (Em) (G) (A7) (D)  
B<sup>b</sup>7 C Fm A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>

ly they speak: the strong, who once were weak!  
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.  
 cerns they own: God's love through them is known.  
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

The first three stanzas of this text are organized around the three great virtues—faith, hope, and love—mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:13. These have indeed been the marks of the faithful people of God always and everywhere, and the final stanza sums up our gratitude for them.

**Concerns and Remembrances**

**Prayers of Gratitude and Concern**

**Concluding Prayer** *(together)*

**We offer our prayer through Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns now and forever,  
and who has made us blameless citizens of the Kingdom of God. Amen**

**The Offering**

**Offertory Solo**

The Lord's Prayer  
John Robinson, *tenor*

*Albert Hay Malotte*

**\* Doxology 710** *(singing together)*

*We Lift Our Voices*

We lift our voices; we lift our hands;  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;  
Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.  
All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices; we lift our hands;  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

**\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**



# SEND AND BLESS

## This Week at First Presbyterian Church

### \* Hymn

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) *John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love  
Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

\* **Benediction**

\* **Response** *(singing together)*

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our Creator, family all are we,  
Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

\* **Postlude**

Praise Be to God

*Matt Powers*



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## 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

**If your infant or child needs care** 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.

Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

### If you are new to First Church

**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 become a member** of First Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

### Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org) for more info.



## 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*

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries

Megan Bondhus, Church Office 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

