

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Climate in the Pulpit Sunday
September 29, 2019

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)*

*Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible,
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*

Francis of Assisi

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

We gather in the image of the Creator
who is a community of love.

We gather in the name of the Redeemer
who reconciles all of creation.

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver
who inspires new life and renews it.

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.

Creating God,

your name is written on every leaf, every bird.

**Your name is written on every river,
every stone, every living being.**

We praise and worship you

for the magnificence of your creation.

Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth

and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation.

Amen.

* **Hymn 13** The Mighty God with Power Speaks (*Psalm 50*) *Kingsfold*

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.

Holy God of steadfast love,

in your presence we confess

our failure to be what you created us to be.

You call us to care for your creation,

but we ignore your call, and refuse to listen.

We are sorry for the bad decisions we have made.

We are sorry for the people we have hurt.

We are sorry for the damage we have caused to the planet.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Do not abandon us to our foolishness.

Teach us to treasure your gifts

of water, air, land, light and darkness,

and to see the good of all creation

so that we may be a blessing.

(We take time for quiet, personal prayer...)

Assurance of Grace

*** 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 germs and the flu.*

*** Response of Praise 32, verse 1**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

(singing together)

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.

The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

Words of Welcome

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Page 643; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Today’s Children’s Story Bible Text

Children might like to read this lesson:

“How God Made Everything”

Page 20

(Based on Genesis 1:1-2:4a)

Second Lesson: Luke 16:19-31

Page 851; 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 An Investment of Hope in a Dismal Time

Morton Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

* An Affirmation for the Season of Creation *(together)*

We belong to the Creator
in whose image we are all made.

**In God we are breathing, in God we are living,
in God we share the life of all creation.**

We belong to Jesus Christ,
the true icon of God and of humanity.

**In Christ God is breathing, in Christ God is living,
through Christ we are reconciled.**

We belong to the Holy Spirit,
who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

**In the Spirit truth is living,
the breath of God always moves us.**

We belong to the Holy Trinity,
who is one in all and Three-in-One.

**In God we are all made,
in Christ we are all saved,
in the Spirit we are all united.**

Thanks be to God!

* Hymn 19 God of Great and God of Small *God of Great and Small*

Concerns and Remembrances

Ordination of a Deacon

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 16** O That I Had a Thousand Voices *O Dass Ich Tausend*

* **Closing Responses**

God to enfold us,
God to surround us.
God in our sleeping,
God in our waking.
God in our watching,
God in our hoping.
God on our lips,
God in our lives.

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**



WORSHIP NOTES:

Today's Affirmation of Faith was written by Per Harling, a Swedish pastor and prolific hymn writer, who composed this affirmation for the ecumenical celebration of the Season of Creation. Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

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. Care for infants and toddlers three years of age and younger is available during worship services and the Education Hour. 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. *Bags with green ribbons and green bulletins* for children ages three to six (pre-readers); *Bags with purple ribbons and purple bulletins* for children ages seven to twelve (readers).

Feeling chilly during worship? Wrap yourself in a beautiful shawl handmade by our Knitting Ministry. The shawls are in a basket in the Upper Commons near the entrance to the Sanctuary. Please remember to return it on your way out.

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 Pastor Morton or Pastor 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

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, Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

mharris@firstpreshc.org
sharris@firstpreshc.org
vcallegary@firstpreshc.org
jgaldieri@firstpreshc.org
fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org
bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org
sexton@firstpreshc.org
GodlyPlay@firstpreshc.org

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