

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020

10:30 a.m. Live Stream Service



GATHER

Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.

For Meditation before Worship *(for personal use before worship)*

*Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences,
penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.*

Maya Angelou

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Lighting the Christ Candle

God is in the water that restores our soul.
And God is in the night when we lose our way.

God is in today and tomorrow,
raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.
And God is in the wilderness with us – every step of the way.

So with confidence we declare –
If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:
Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Prelude

Chorale Prelude

Cesar Franck

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Creator and Healer, root of all goodness,
working your Sabbath will in the chaos of our life:

teach us the insight that gives true judgment

and praises you wherever you are found,

making miracles from spit and mud;

through Jesus Christ, the Child of earth.

Amen.

* Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

(see next page)

THE WORD

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

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.

Healing God,

through your Child Jesus you heal those who are blind;

over and over Jesus opens people's eyes.

**So today we confess that we often choose
to keep our eyes closed.**

**We turn away from injustice in our world,
worried you might ask us to work for change.**

**We close our eyes to our privilege,
because the truth is uncomfortable.**

**We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering
to avoid identifying with their pain.**

Forgive us for failing to be your Church in the world.

Guide us from the depths of our wilderness into your light.

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

Assurance of Grace

*** Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

Let There Be Love and Understanding

Let there be love and understanding among us,
Let peace and friendship be our shelter from the storm.

Words of Welcome

HEAR

A Prayer

Prayer for Illumination – *Richard of Chichester (c. 1197-1253)*

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.**

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death
your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.
- 3 The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.

A Song

The Lord is my Shepherd, I'll walk with him always.
He leads me by still waters, I'll walk with him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with him always.
Always, always, I'll walk with him always.

Children's Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

A Story – The Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-15, 24-39

⁹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”

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!

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

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

from The Confession of 1967

**We acknowledge that God's sovereign love
is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds.
We ascribe to God superlatives of
power, wisdom, and goodness.
But in Jesus Christ God reveals love
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful people.
The power of God's love in Christ transforms the world
and discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator
who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.
Thanks be to God!**

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayer of Gratitude and Concern

God of life:
Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

**O Christ, the Master Carpenter,
who at the last, through wood and nails,
purchased our whole salvation,
wield well your tools in the workshop of your world,
so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench
may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand.
We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen.**

Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

SEND AND BLESS

CELEBRATING TIME

683 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope-ful-ness, Lord of all joy, whose
2 Lord of all ea-ger-ness, Lord of all faith, whose
3 Lord of all kind-li-ness, Lord of all grace, your
4 Lord of all gen-tle-ness, Lord of all calm, whose



trust, ev-er child-like, no cares could de-stroy: be
strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be
hands swift to wel-come, your arms to em-brace: be
voice is con-tent-ment, whose pres-ence is balm: be



there at our wak-ing and give us, we pray, your
there at our la-bors and give us, we pray, your
there at our hom-ing and give us, we pray, your
there at our sleep-ing and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

When first published in 1931, this "All-Day Hymn" (as it was titled) seemed very daring for not using traditional archaic pronouns to address Christ. Current pronouns no longer disturb, but the comforting Jesus portrayed here needs to be balanced by his call to discipleship.

TEXT: Jan Struther, 1931
MUSIC: David Schwoebel, 2008
Text © 1931 Oxford University Press
Music © 2008 Celebrating Grace, Inc.

COURTNEY
10.11.11.12
(alternate tune: SLANE)

*** Closing Responses**

Choose this day whom you will serve

We will serve the living God.

The road is narrow that leads to life;

We will walk the way of Christ.

We offer more than words, O God;

We offer you our lives.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** Benediction**

Discipleship Time – This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Grab a second cup of coffee and stick around online as we talk about how we are staying connected in these days of social distance



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 pastoral staff of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Morton or Pastor Sue.

Program Staff Cell Phone Numbers

Morton Harris, Co-Pastor, 443-824-3768

Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor, 443-824-4305

Virginia Callegary, Christian Educator, 410-292-3400



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

mharris@firstpreshc.org

Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor

sharris@firstpreshc.org

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education

vcallegary@firstpreshc.org

Caroline Smith, Church Administrator

fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org

Pat Travers, Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org

Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton

sexton@firstpreshc.org

Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator

GodlyPlay@firstpreshc.org

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 ✠

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

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