

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 16, 2014

8:00 a.m.



We Gather in God's Name

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 *Italics* are read by the leader;
words in **bold**, by the congregation.

For Meditation before Worship (for personal use before worship)

The only way we can speak of God is in the present: God is. The only time when we can know God is now. The only time we can serve God is now. Now is the time of the Lord's coming. Now is the only time that matters to us. Now is the only door to the future.

Ralph Morton, a founding member of the Iona Community

Words of Welcome

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 phone number!

Then, pass the folder the length of the pew and back.

Lighting the Christ Candle

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

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

Prelude

The Handbell Choir

*** Prayer for Sunday Morning**

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lord God of all the ages,

the One who is and who was and who is to come:

stir up within us a longing for your kingdom,

steady our hearts in times of trial,

and grant us patient endurance

until the sun of justice dawns.

We make this prayer through your Son,

our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*** Hymn 618** O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High *Deo Gracias*

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.

Living God, Alpha and Omega,

you have prepared a new creation for us

but we are unprepared for its coming.

You have come to live among us

but we rejected and crucified you.

You promise us that even death will pass away

but we cling to sins and sorrows.

Forgive us. Make us new.

Pour out the gift of your grace

from the spring of the water of life.

Amen.

(We continue in silent, personal prayer...)

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 582** (*singing together*) *Goodness to God*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

* **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* **Welcoming One Another**

We greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

* **Response of Praise 587** (*singing together*) *Celtic Alleluia*

Voice

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

5

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Romans 8:31-39

Page 919; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: Psalm 130

Page 500; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Out of the Depths”

Frances Taylor Gench

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

We Respond to God's Word

*** Affirmation of Faith**

from the Confession of 1967

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ
embraces the whole of human life.
Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ...
culminate in the image of the kingdom.
The kingdom represents God's triumph
over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation.
Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,
stirring hope in all people and preparing the world
to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.
With an urgency born of this hope,
the church applies itself to present tasks
and strives for a better world.
It does not identify limited progress
with the kingdom of God on earth,
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.
In steadfast hope,
the church looks beyond all partial achievement
to the final triumph of God.
Now to him who by the power within us
is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think,
to him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

God, you shape our dreams.
As we put our trust in you,
may your hopes and desires be ours,
and we, your expectant people.

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

* **Doxology** (*singing together*)

Hymn 716, verse 3

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

God is here!

And the Spirit is with us!

Let us give thanks to the living God.

We thank God with joy.

(We stand quietly as the liturgist offers a prayer.)

We Go Forth to Serve

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Minute for Mission – Alternative Gift Fair

Margot Watson

* **Hymn 37**

Let All Things Now Living

Ash Grove

* **Invitation to Discipleship**

* **Closing Responses**

We gather to worship;

We scatter to serve.

God draws us in to listen;

God sends us out to respond to God's Word.

Our worship is over;

Our ministry begins.

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

Fugue in F

Bach



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) and individual listening devices 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 that will 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 & 11 a.m. services; *The Worship Bridge* for older children (grades 2-5) at the 11 a.m. service.

Worship folders and crayons for children are available at the ushers' table in The Commons. Please return the crayons as you leave the sanctuary. *White bulletins* for children ages three to six; *Gray bulletins* for children ages seven to twelve.

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.

Handicap entrance is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

We invite you to stop by Coffee Hour after worship for conversation and fellowship in Lyle Buck Hall.

New Member Orientation explores what it means to be part of First Church household. This one session class is the way to become a member.

First Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; to request a Stephen Minister; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Walt Peters or Ruth Bell.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County



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Ministers: All members of the congregation



Dr. O. Morton Harris, Jr., Co-Pastor
Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor
Dr. Walter W. Peters, Pastor-in-Residence
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education
James Galdieri, Director of Music Ministries
Caroline Smith, Executive Assistant
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator
Marla Youkers, Child Care Coordinator
The Rev. Ruth Bell, Parish Visitor
The Rev. T. Webster Brenner, Parish Associate
The Rev. Stephen Mann, Parish Associate

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We are an Earth Care Congregation ✠ We are a Stephen Ministry Church

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

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