

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Second Sunday of Advent

Communion

December 7, 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 **bold** are read by the congregation.

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

*"Make me mindful, O God, of those who thirst
for the water I have in abundance."*

*Kathleen Long Bostrom, **Decluttering for Christmas***

Words of Welcome

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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.

Call to Worship

Chaos crumbles, and the din of voices grows still.

Hearts awaken, and spirits lift.

When God comes near, the earth rejoices, and evil retreats.

Emmanuel, Come! Come near us now.

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come

JS Bach

Prayer of the Day

May God be with you.

And also with you.

You send us comfort, but also a demand
to prepare the path for your presence,
to open the road for your arrival.

**Help us to be diligent and attentive, O Lord,
to your work: this preparation for your Word in the world.
Make us awake to the places where you want to be heard,
and make us fearless in our efforts to open
a path, a road, a highway for our God.
Amen.**

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, we confess

**that we do not always walk in the light that you give us,
but we drift, fascinated, into the lightless realms.**

**We study the ways of war and delight in power;
we neglect the power that comes
from peace and reconciliation.**

By day we waste your gifts; by night, we do the same.

Forgive us, deliver us, teach us the ways of your Truth.

Prepare us to be able to welcome you with joy.

In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 583** *(singing together)*

Taizé

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

* **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.

We Gather at the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light

That marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,

**Kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in darkness.**

(We listen to the prophets, and a candle is lit.)

A Prayer for this Season

Enlighten us with your grace,

That we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We pray for your mercy through Christ our Lord,

Whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Response of Praise 100 *(singing together)*

My Soul Cries Out

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Page 581; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

Page 812; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“In the Wilderness”

Walter Peters

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

We Respond to God's Word

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

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived
by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended
into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* **Hymn 144**

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

Concerns and Remembrances

A Prayer for World AIDS Day

The Offering

Offertory

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts.

We open them to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the living God.

We thank God with joy.

Great and Wondrous Deliverer, how great and wondrous your deeds as well! You created the world and everything in it. With We are eagerly awaiting our Savior in the world and in our lives:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,

#552 (Land of Rest)

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest,

hosanna in the highest!

With grateful expectation, we come to this table now, infuse us with hope in the great mystery of our faith, that:

Christ has died; Christ is risen;

#553 (Land of Rest)

Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

All glory, honor and praise are yours, eternal God. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

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.

Breaking the Bread

[The prayer continues on the next panel...]

The Communion of the People

We will receive communion this morning
by passing the bread and the cup to one another in the pew.
Gluten-free bread is in a cup in the center of the bread tray.
The outer circle is white grape juice; the inner circles are red wine.

Our tradition is to eat the bread as it comes to you,
and then to hold the cup so we may commune together.

Prayer After Communion

O Lord our God, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Dispel the darkness, that all nations may come to your light. Establish your peace on the earth; join our voices to sing your praise. Comfort the sick and the weary; renew their strength and power. O Lord our God, come to us, that the earth may behold your glory. Amen.

* Communion Response 95 (singing together)

Prepare The Way

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

We Go Forth to Serve

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* Hymn 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

* Invitation to Discipleship

* Closing Responses

The Light of Life is coming into the world.
We are Christ's people, and we cling to this light.
The Light of Life will fill the world with hope.
We will tend this light. We will carry this light.
We will follow this light.

* Benediction

* Postlude



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 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 & 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 at the ushers' table in The Commons. Please return the crayons as you leave. *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

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
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