

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Third Sunday of Easter
Earth Sunday
April 19, 2015

11:00 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)

*There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world
that is not intended to make us rejoice.*

John Calvin

Prelude

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

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

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

Introit

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face:
in the light of the moon and the pattern of the stars;
in scarred mountain rifts and ancient groves;
in mighty seas and creatures of the deep.

**Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face:
in the light of eyes we love;
in the salt of tears we have tasted;
in weathered countenances,
and in the soft glow of the child.**

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face;
there is your face among us.

Amen.

* Hymn 247

Now the Green Blade Rises

Noël Nouvelet

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.

**God of hope and joy,
we confess that we continue to live in fear.**

**You walk with us in our sorrow,
yet we fail to recognize you.**

**You show us that Christ is risen,
yet doubt persists in our hearts.**

**You renew the whole creation,
yet we continue to neglect and abuse it.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

**Open our minds and soften our hearts,
that we may understand and believe
the good news of resurrection,
which has come through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and our Lord.**

Amen.

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

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 581** *(singing together)*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, 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.
A touch on the shoulder, a nod, a bow – can be a substitute
for handshakes to hinder the spread of the flu.*

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

Alleluia

Lawton



We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 104:1-2, 10-24

Page 483; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

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 worship later in the service.*

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: John 11:33-45

Page 874; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Come Out of Your Tomb!

The Rev. Jed Koball

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

We Respond to God's Word

- * **Affirmation of Faith** (*together*) *a New Testament Affirmation*

This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:

that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.

Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;

Christ is our Lord and our God.

Amen.

- * **Hymn 250** In the Bulb There Is a Flower *Promise*

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer (*together*)

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty
and restore all things

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, where your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, warfare and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear
in justice, love and peace, to the glory of your name.

Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

- * **Doxology 609** (*singing together*) *Praise God*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- * **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

All that is in the heavens and on the earth
is yours, O Lord,

And of your own we give you.

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

We Go Forth to Serve

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 266** Joy to the World Richmond

* **Invitation to Discipleship**

* **Closing Responses**

In the peace of God

We carry Christ's love.

In company with Christ

We live resurrection life.

With our lives we proclaim:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

* **Benediction**

* **Response 257**

The Risen Christ, verse 4

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.

* **Postlude**



Worship Notes: The Prayer for Sunday Morning is slightly adapted from a prayer by John Phillip Newell, from his book *Praying with the Earth*, Eerdmans, 2011, p. 31.

The Affirmation of Faith we are saying today is a New Testament affirmation. It references several passages of scripture. See: 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Mark 16:9; Matthew 16:16; Revelation 22:13 and John 20:28. This affirmation was first compiled and published in *The Worshipbook* in 1970.

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. The next orientation is **Saturday, May 30, 2015** from 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend or need childcare.

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 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
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

mharris@firstpreshc.org
sharris@firstpreshc.org
vcallegary@firstpreshc.org
jgaldieri@firstpreshc.org
execasst@firstpreshc.org
bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org
sexton@firstpreshc.org
GodlyPlay@firstpreshc.org
rbell@firstpreshc.org

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