

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 23, 2016

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.

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

Religions are not fortresses to be defended;

they are springs for the nourishment of human life.

S. Wesley Ariarajah

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

All living things come to you, O Name Unnamed

You who answers prayer, we offer you our praise.

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.

Good and gracious God,
you promise to pour out your Spirit on us.

You are the hope of the world.

Give us strength, that we might serve you.

Teach us humility,

**that we might trust your power, and not our own;
and make us ever-grateful.**

Amen.

* Hymn 157

I Danced in the Morning

Lord of the Dance

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.

**Sovereign God, mother of mercy, father of grace:
we confess that we do not live out of gratitude.**

We have wandered from your path;

we have turned toward idols of our own creating;

we have lived without compassion;

we have disregarded the well-being of your creation.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Pour out your Spirit into us,

that we may live in your way,

and proclaim your praise with our whole lives.

(We continue in silent, 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 the flu.*

* **Response** *(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

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Joel 2:23-32

Page 741; pew Bible

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson: Luke 18:9-14

Page 853; 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

At the Right Time

Morton Harris

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

- * **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)* *adapted from the Directory for Worship and Colossians 1*

God calls us to lives of simplicity, generosity, hospitality, compassion, and care for creation.
As those who have been claimed and set free by God's grace, we respond with gratitude, offering our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods. The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor. Tithing is a primary practice of Christian stewardship and self-offering. We are accountable to God for how we use our material goods, spiritual gifts, and time in God's service. Thus, we are called to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God.

- * **Hymn 38** To Bless the Earth *Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben*

Moment for Sharing

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of abundant grace,
Hear our prayers.

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.

Moment for Mission – Deacons' Holiday Drives – Merle Chandra

The Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Offertory

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 321** The Church's One Foundation

Aurelia

* **Closing Responses**

This is the day that God has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

We will not offer to God

Offerings that cost us nothing.

Go in peace to love and to serve;

We will seek peace and pursue it.

In the name of the Trinity of Love,

God in community, holy and one.

* **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 8:30 & 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. *Green bags and bulletins* for children ages three to six (pre-readers); *Purple bags and bulletins* for children ages seven to twelve (readers).

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 Co-Pastors Morton or 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; to request a Stephen Minister; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Ruth Bell or Pastor Morton.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County



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Ministers: All members of the congregation



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Marla Youkers, Child Care Coordinator

The Rev. Ruth Bell, Parish Visitor

rbell@firstpreshc.org

The Rev. T. Webster Brenner, Parish Associate

The Rev. Stephen Mann, Parish Associate

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