

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Reformation Sunday*  
*October 30, 2016*

*8:30 a.m.*

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## 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)*

*Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei.*

*The church reformed, always reforming according to the Word of God.*

### 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

Way beyond all journeying, Truth behind all mystery,

Life within all living:

**We praise you!**

Mender of every brokenness, Midwife of a better future:

**We praise you!**

Maker, redeemer, confessor, companion, befriender, inspirer,

God beyond all names:

**We praise you!**

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.**

God of the lost ones,  
you come into the places we live and you call us your own.

**May our tables be graces by your presence as guest,  
and our possessions freed to serve the poor;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who seeks us out.**

**Amen.**

\* **Hymn 104**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

## 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 follow the crowd around you,**

**but we stand apart and keep our distance.**

**We ask your mercy and favor,**

**but begrudge your blessing to others.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Come and find us and save us,**

**for without you we are lost,**

**but in you, our lives are found.**

*(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:** Habakkuk 1:1-4 and 2:1-4 *Page 762; pew Bible*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Lesson:** Luke 19:1-10 *Page 854; 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** There Is Still A Vision *Sue Lowcock Harris*

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

# RESPOND AND SERVE

## \* **An Affirmation for Reformation Sunday** *(together)*

*What is our Chief End?*

Our Chief End is to glorify God and enjoy God forever!

*(The Shorter Catechism, 1647)*

We confess and acknowledge one God alone,  
to whom alone we must cleave,  
whom alone we must serve,  
whom only we must worship,  
and in whom we put our trust.

Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable,  
incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible.

*(The Scots Confession, 1560)*

*What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

That I am not my own, but belong –  
body and soul, in life and death –  
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Because I belong to him,

Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life

and make me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on  
to live for him.

*(The Heidelberg Catechism, 1563)*

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
who alone we worship and serve.

*(A Brief Statement of Faith, 1983)*

**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.

**The Offering**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Offertory**

## **SEND AND BLESS**

**This Week at First Presbyterian Church**

\* **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**



**WORSHIP NOTES:** The Opening Sentences as we light the Christ Candle come from Morning Liturgy B, in a *Wee Worship Book*, Fifth Incarnation, by the Wild Goose Resource Group.

The Prayer for Sunday Morning is adapted from *Prayers for and Inclusive Church*, by Steve Shakespeare, Year C Proper 26.

# 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*

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, Church Administrator  
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 Michalcyzk 410-433-8861 x115