

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
*March 12, 2017*

*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.

*Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.*

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

*I always think that we all live, spiritually, by what others have given us in the significant hours of our life. These significant hours do not announce themselves as coming but arrive unexpected.*

*Albert Schweitzer*

### Greeting

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 contact information!*

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

### Lighting the Christ Candle

We lift our eyes; from where will our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

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 our helper, our shade, our protector:

**we trust your power to make all things new;  
to keep us in sunlight and in moonlight,  
along rocky paths and pathways unknown;  
until all our going and coming brings us at last  
to your kingdom promised in Christ,  
in whose name we pray.**

**Amen.**

\* **Hymn 396**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

*Holy Manna*

## 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.**

**Merciful God, forgive us.**

**Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.**

**We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

**We were silent when we should have said something.**

**We have acted when we knew better.**

**We were still when we know we should have moved.**

**For the wrong we have done,  
for the good we have failed to do,**

**have mercy on us, O God.**

**Come close and make us yours,**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

*(We take time for quiet, 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 of Praise 694 verse 1

*Great God of Every Blessing*

*(singing together)*

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,  
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:  
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

## Words of Welcome

# ENCOUNTER

## Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson:**           Philippians 1:27-2:4

*Page 953; pew Bible*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalter Hymn 45**    I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes (Psalm 121)

*Dundee*

**Second Lesson:**    Matthew 21:23-32

*Page 802; 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**            A Walk Through Holy Week: Monday   *Sue Lowcock Harris*

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

## RESPOND AND SERVE

\* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)*      *adapted from The Confession of Belhar*

We believe that the unity of the people of God  
must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:  
in that we love one another;  
that we experience, practice  
and pursue community with one another;  
that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully  
to be of benefit and blessing to one another.  
Thanks be to God!

### **Concerns and Remembrances**

#### **Prayers of Gratitude and Concern**

Hear us, O God  
**Your mercy is great.**

#### **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

\* **Hymn 353**                      My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less                      *Solid Rock*

\* **Closing Responses**

We journey with Christ.

**Christ before me, Christ beside me,  
Christ behind me, Christ beneath me.**

As we walk

**Christ, be our way.**

As we learn

**Christ, be our truth.**

As we grow

**Christ, be our life.**

\* **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 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 Pastor Morton.

## The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | [www.firstpreshc.org](http://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, 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 ☩

*Inspirit Counseling Services* at First Presbyterian Church

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