

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 20, 2017

10:00 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.

Please fill out the red Friendship Pad in each pew.

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

You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Augustine

Gathering Music

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

Where God dwells, steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

Righteousness and peace kiss.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

Righteousness looks down from the sky.

God gives what is good

And we respond with abundant praise!

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

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

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

As you cause the sun to rise, O Lord,

bring your light to dawn in our souls and dispel the darkness.

Give us grace to reflect your glory;

let your peace shine in our words;

and lend your healing to our touch,

that we may give you praise, now and forever, Amen.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| * Hymn 438 | Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me | <i>Toplady</i> |
| * Hymn 661 | Why Should I Feel Discouraged?
His Eye Is on the Sparrow | <i>Sparrow</i> |

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 grace, love and communion,
we confess that we have failed to love you
with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
You welcome all to the table of grace;
we turn away strangers asking for crumbs.
We are apathetic when we could make a difference.
We lack persistence when urgent need confronts us,
and no one seems to care.
Forgive us; restore and reorder our lives
by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Give us faith that will not give up.
Give us hope that is founded on your presence.
Give us courage to let our actions
speak louder than our words
so that we may glorify you
and share your goodness with the world.**

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

Assurance of Grace

- * **Response of Praise 613** *(singing together)* *O Lord, Our Lord*
- O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name:
Prince of Peace, mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty.

* **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.*

* **Song of Thanksgiving 647** (*singing together*)

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.

Words of Welcome

*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.*

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Page 921; 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.*

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: Matthew 15:21-28

Page 797; 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

Morton Harris

Wherever the Path Leads: To a Faraway Place
(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)* *from A Declaration of Faith (PCUS, 1977)*

We believe Christ calls us to be disciples.

In forming his people and sending them into the world

Jesus called individuals to be disciples.

They were to share the joy of his companionship,

to understand and obey his teachings,

and to follow him in life and death.

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.

Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ

is God's undeserved gift to each of us.

It is also God's demand upon every one of us,

never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.

Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,

we strive to become more faithful and effective

in our daily practice of the Christian life.

Amen. May it be so.

* **Hymn 649** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* *Amazing Grace*

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

O God, lead us from the side of death to the side of life,
from the side of falsehood to the side of truth.

Lead us from the side of despair to the side of hope,
from the side of fear to the side of trust.

Lead us from the side of hate to the side of love,
from the side of war to the side of peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

We ask it for your own name's sake.

Amen.

A Moment of Gratitude in Acknowledgement of a Bequest

The Offering

Offertory

- * **Doxology 328** (*singing together*) *Praise God, All You Nations*

Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise:
God's love is great and endures forever.
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!
Da n'ase! Da n'ase! Da Onyame ase!
Da n'ase! Da n'ase! Da Onyame ase!
Efiase oye n'a n'adoe doe so.
Da n'ase! Da n'ase! Da Onyame ase!

- * **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Creating God, how manifold are your works!
**You open your hand in generosity and love
and our lives are filled with good things!**
(We stand quietly as the liturgist offers a prayer.)

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Sending Out – Emma Warman
PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer in the Philippines

- * **Hymn 317** In Christ There Is No East or West *McKee*

- * **Closing Responses**

In work and in worship
God is with us.
Gathered and scattered
God is with us.
Now and always
God is with us; thanks be to God!

- * **Benediction**

- * **Response 302, verse 5** *When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace*

Your Spirit gives us differing ways
to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be
your able, strong community.

- * **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 during the summer include: *Godly Play* for younger children (age 4 - grade 1) during the 10:00 a.m. service.

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 Lemonade on the Lawn after the 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship services for conversation and fellowship on the front lawn.

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; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Morton or Pastor Sue.

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045
410.730.3545 | www.firstpreshec.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 Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115