



Welcome to First Worship!

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2017

9:00 AM

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

Gather

We 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.*

The worship leader reads italic print.

Everyone reads the standard print together.

Prelude

We listen and get ready to worship God.

Greeting

The Pastor welcomes everyone to worship.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We say words from scripture

to proclaim who God is and what God has done.

Give thanks to God.

God's steadfast love endures forever!

God's love and justice shall last forever,

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world

and the center of our lives.

Song

We praise God by singing about God's greatness and goodness.

Hymn 184

Calm to the Waves

Prayer for the Morning

We pray together.

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Into the wonder of this new day

we come to you O God,

just as we are,

and we bring with us our hopes,

our fears, our stories.

Make us ready to receive your grace

this morning and every morning.

Amen.

*** Song**

We praise God by singing about God's greatness and goodness.

Hymn 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

*** Prayer of Confession**

We stand humbly before God and pray together.

Holy God,

you love us, you care for us,

and you lead us day by day.

But we have not followed you.

We have not loved you

with our whole heart and mind and strength.

And we have not loved our neighbors.

Forgive us by your grace.

Help us to walk in your way,

that we may see the world as you do,

and love it with your love;

for Jesus sake.

Amen.

(We continue to pray silently.)

*** Assurance of Grace**

*The Pastor reminds us of God's forgiveness
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*** Response of Praise**

We sing Alleluia; it means "Praise God!"

Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*** Sharing the Peace**

We greet each other with a sign of Christ's welcome.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*** Song**

Let There Be Love and Understanding

We praise God by singing about God's greatness and goodness.

Let there be love
and understanding among us,
Let peace and friendship
be our shelter from the storm.

Hear

Prayer for Illumination

We ask God's Spirit to help us understand.

Scripture Lesson

We read today's Bible story.

Matthew 15:21-28

(on page 797 of the pew Bible)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Bible Lesson

*The Pastor helps us hear that God who speaks in scripture,
speaks to us now.*

We end our Bible Lesson with a time of silence.

Respond and Serve

Prayers of Concern

We share our concerns for the church, the world, and all in need.

Song for Prayer 469

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The Offering

We give our tithes and offerings for God's service.

Special Music

*As we give our gifts, Mr. G offers special music to God
and we listen as he plays.*

* Doxology 605

*We sing a special song of praise
as the offerings are brought to the Communion Table.*

Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
Praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three-in-One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.

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

*We receive the offering and give thanks for all God's gifts.
We conclude our prayer by praying The Lord's Prayer together.*

God is here.

The Spirit is with us.

Let us give thanks to God.

We thank God with joy.

Loving God, we give you thanks for our minds.

For all the thoughts we will think;

for all the things we will come to understand;

for all the discoveries we will make

and all the ideas we will share;

for all the dreams we will put into action;

for all the memories we will hold,

we give you all our thanks, O God.

Give us wisdom and courage to use our minds

for goodness, healing and peace.

We thank you for our church,

and for bringing us together today,

**and for everyone who helps us worship you
with all our heart and soul.**

O God, you are always with us.

Now we offer you our lives,

to be shaped by your Spirit.

**Make us people who will live in your love,
and change the world for you.**

Let us pray for God's rule on earth as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

*** Closing Song**

Hymn 853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

*** Closing Responses**

God sends us out into the world to serve.

In work and worship

God is with us

Gathered and scattered

God is with us.

Now and always

God is with us. Thanks be to God.

*** Blessing**

The Pastor gives us a blessing as we leave worship.

Postlude

Mr. G will play some music as we leave the sanctuary.



Assist in Worship

Pastor Sue and Pastor Morton invite you to assist them this summer during First Worship. Here are some ways you can assist them:

- Light the Christ Candle during the Call to Worship
- Read the Scripture Lesson
- Help the ushers greet and take the offering

Please speak with Virginia Callegary if you would like to be a Worship Assistant. Also, there is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for First Worship. If you sign up, Ms. Virginia will be in touch with you and help you prepare to be a Worship Assistant this summer.

Thanks to Ginny Lockhart for the Zentangle® art in this week's worship bulletin.



The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

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Ministers: All members of the congregation

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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
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We are an Earth Care Congregation ☩

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