

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 27, 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)*

There comes into my mind such an indescribable, infinite, all-absorbing, divine, heavenly pleasure, a sense of elevation and expansion, and I have had nought to do with it. I perceive that I am dealt with by superior powers. This is a pleasure, a joy, an existence which I have not procured myself. I speak as a witness on the stand. I tell what I have perceived.

Henry David Thoreau

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

We give thanks to God with our whole heart

We sing God's praise!

Though we walk in the midst of trouble

God's hand is stretched out to deliver us.

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.

Living God, you accept our stumbling faith,
our misplaced answers, our false horizons,
and through them build a pathway of peace.

(continued on next page)

**Empower us to bind the wounds of the world
and loose the debts of oppression,
that all may confess the grace that is your work alone;
through Jesus Christ, anointed for the world.
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.

**God of grace, love and communion,
we confess that we are conformed to this world.**

**We conform to the world's frantic pace
and fail to notice the blessings you provide.**

**We conform to the world's reckless waste
and exploit what you entrust to our care.**

**We conform to the world's shallow values,
oblivious to the common good.**

**Forgive our conformity
and transform us by your grace.**

**Let us be no longer bound by sin,
but released, restored, set free
to worship and serve you in freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(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 12:1-12

Page 922; 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 16:13-20

Page 798; 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: Back Home
(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 in one true and living God.
We acknowledge one God alone,
whose demands on us are absolute,
whose help for us is sufficient.
That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love.
God chooses to be made known in Jesus Christ.
Jesus' involvement in the human condition
is God's involvement.
Jesus' compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion.
Jesus' demand for justice, truth and faithfulness
is God's demand.
Jesus' willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness.
Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.
We acknowledge no other God.
We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.
We must not yield unconditional obedience
to any other power.
We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.
To worship God is highest joy.
To serve God is perfect freedom.
Thanks be to God!

* **Hymn 519** *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak* *Jernigan*
You Are My All in All

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.

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

- * **Hymn 313** Lord, Make Us More Holy *Lord, Make Us More Holy*

- * **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