

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2017

10:30 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)*

Follow the light you have and pray for more light.

George MacLeod

Gathering Music

Grand Choeur Dialogue

Eugene Gigout

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.

Call to Worship

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!

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

* **Hymn 275** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Ein' Feste Burg*

* **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

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

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.

Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**

We fear that we are not good enough.

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward
instead of moving outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us.

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.**

(We take time for quiet, personal prayer...)

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 585** (*singing together*)

Machu-Pichu

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
To God be glory forever! To God be glory forever!
Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!
Alleluia, Amen! Alleluia, Amen!

* **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 62** (*singing together*)

Love the Lord Your God

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

Words of Welcome

Welcome New Members

A Moment for Grateful Giving

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Matthew 22:34-39

Page 804; 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.*

*Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to
The Worship Bridge. They will return to worship later in the service.*

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.

* **Psalter Hymn 652** A Grateful Heart (Psalm 111) *Rockingham*

Second Lesson: Joshua 1:1-9 *Page 168; 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 *Sue Lowcock Harris*

Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **An Affirmation for Reformation Sunday**

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 Scotts 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 in death –
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Because I belong to him,

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

**and makes 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)

* **Hymn 624** I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art *Toulon*

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of life,

Hear our prayers.

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

O God, in days past you gave the people of this community the gifts of courage, faith and vision to found our congregation, and the energy, intelligence, imagination and love to serve you in the world through war and peace, prosperity and hardship. Grant, we pray, a like spirit to us in this time and place. Further in all things the purpose of our common life, that hidden things may be revealed to us and new ways found to touch the hearts of all. May we preserve with each other love and peace, and, if it be your holy will, grant that we may continue to be a place of your abiding, and that our common life may be a sanctuary and a light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Psalm 46

by John Ness Beck

* **Doxology 607** *(singing together)*

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Give thanks to God, for God is good!
God's steadfast love endures forever.
(We stand quietly as the liturgist offers a prayer.)

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* **Hymn 694**

Great God of Every Blessing

Aurelia

* **Closing Responses**

We drink the water of life;
We bear witness to God's goodness.
We share the bread of new creation;
We bear witness to God's abundance.
We go out into God's world in joy;
We live as God's people of peace.

* **Benediction**

* **Response 549**

May the Love of the Lord

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

* **Postlude**

Rigaudon

Andre Campra



WORSHIP NOTES: The Opening Sentences as we light the Christ Candle are adapted from Morning Liturgy B, in [A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation](#), by the Wild Goose Resource Group.

The Prayer of the Day is a prayer with a long history. It appears first as a Latin prayer in the 11th century, and then in English in the 14th century contemplative book [The Cloud of Unknowing](#). In 1549 Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury for a newly formed Anglican Church, translated it and included it in the [First Prayer Book of Edward VI](#) (1549). This prayer carried over, unchanged, into the [Book of Common Prayer](#) (1662). From there, this prayer found its way into the worship books of all English-speaking congregations: Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist.

The Concluding Prayer in today's Prayers of Gratitude and Concern (10:30) is a reworking of The Prayer for the Iona Community, prayed by members of the Community, published in the Community's Prayer Book.

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 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.

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

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Ministers: All members of the congregation



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