

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*The Realm of Christ*  
November 26, 2017

8:30 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)*

*Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.*

*Karl Barth*

### 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

The Lord God is our shepherd

**We are the people of God's pasture, the sheep of God's hand.**

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.**

Holy God, our refuge and strength,  
you redeem your scattered children,  
gathering us from all corners of the earth  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
in whom all things hold together.

**Make us a just and righteous people,  
worthy by grace to inherit the kingdom of light and peace,  
where Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever.  
Amen.**

\* **Hymn 264**

At the Name of Jesus

*King's Weston*

### **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.**

**Living God, Alpha and Omega,  
you have prepared a new creation for us  
but we are unprepared for its coming.**

**We are distracted by all that glitters,  
and continually grasp for more.**

**You trust us with the message of grace,  
but we bury that treasure in fear.**

**We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.**

**We ignore those who cry out for justice and freedom.**

**We lose our way and abandon hope.**

**Forgive us. Make us new. Light our path. Gather us in.**

**Increase our faith in you,  
and keep us mindful and watchful,  
that we may serve you with joy.**

*(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** (*singing together*)

*Solomon Major*

1. For the gifts of beau - ty joy and light We give thanks to you, O  
2. For — all that's kind and good and true We give thanks to you, O

God. For the laugh-ter and the tears be - sides We give thanks to you, O  
God. Let us learn to live in grat - i - tude We give thanks to you, O

God. We give thanks, we give thanks to you, O God; all our  
God.

thanks and praise they could nev-er be e - nough. For the chance to learn and  
love and — give We give thanks to you, O God.

**Words of Welcome**

**ENCOUNTER**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Ezekiel 34:11-16

*Page 702; pew Bible*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Lesson:** Matthew 25:31-46

*Page 807; 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**

As Time Unravels

*Sue Lowcock Harris*

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

## RESPOND AND SERVE

### \* Affirmation of Faith

*adapted from A Declaration of Faith (1977)*

The people of God have often misused God's promises  
as excuses for doing nothing about present evils.  
But in Christ the new world has already broken in  
and the old can no longer be tolerated.  
We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.  
But hope plunges us onto the struggle  
for victories over evil that are possible now  
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.  
Hope gives us courage and energy  
to contend against all opposition  
however invincible it may seem  
for the new world and new humanity that are surely coming.

Jesus Christ is Lord!  
Christ has been Lord from the beginning.  
Christ will be Lord at the end.  
Even now, Jesus Christ is Lord!  
Thanks be to God!

### \* Hymn 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

*Crusaders' Hymn*

### Concerns and Remembrances

#### Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

God of light,  
**Hear our prayers.**

#### 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

##### Offertory



# 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; 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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The Rev. Ruth Bell, Parish Visitor

[rbell@firstpreshc.org](mailto:rbell@firstpreshc.org)

The Rev. T. Webster Brenner, Parish Associate

The Rev. Stephen Mann, Parish Associate

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of the Presbytery of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

✠ We are an Earth Care Congregation ✠

*Inspirit Counseling Services* at First Presbyterian Church

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