

# WELCOME TO SUMMERTIME WORSHIP!

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Third Sunday after Pentecost*  
*June 13, 2021*

*9:00 a.m. Outdoor Service*

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## GATHER

*We gather on the Front Lawn, our Summertime Sanctuary.  
Please wear a mask, and observe physical distance.  
Take a breath, wave to your neighbor, and let's worship God!*

Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.

### Prelude

### Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Lighting the Christ Candle

This is the day that God has made.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

God's love and justice will 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.**

### Prayer for the Morning

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

O God, you are the tree of life,  
offering shelter to all the world.

**Graft us into your self and nurture our growth,  
that we may bear your truth and love to all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our teacher, friend, guide and savior.  
Amen.**

(As we listen to the hymn, read the words, or perhaps hum softly.)

GATHERING

# Praise God for This Holy Ground 405

Capo 2: (D) (G) (A) (Bm)  
E A B C#m

1 Praise God for this ho - ly ground,  
2 Praise God in whose word we find  
3 Praise God who through Christ makes known  
4 Praise God's Spir - it who be - friends,  
5 Though praise ends, praise is be - gun

(Em7) (D/F#) (Em7) (Asus4) (A)  
F#m7 E/G# F#m7 Bsus4 B

place and peo - ple, sight and sound.  
food for bod - y, soul, and mind.  
all are loved and called God's own.  
rais - es, hum - bles, breaks, and mends.  
where God's will is glad - ly done.

Refrain (D) (G) (Em7) (A) (F#7) (Bm)  
E A F#m7 B G#7 C#m

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

(D) (Em7) (A7) (D)  
E F#m7 B7 E

God's good - ness is e - ter - nal.

Although several passages in the Psalms come close to the wording of this refrain, none matches it exactly. The refrain serves as a summation of the stanzas, each of which is filled with multiple instances of God's providential mercy, and all of them are worth pondering.

## **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,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you,  
against one another,  
and against the earth entrusted to our care.**

**We are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness.**

**We do not uphold the poor.**

**We do not advocate for the voiceless.**

**We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors.**

**Forgive us.**

**Repair, restore and renew us with the love of Christ,  
so that we may grow in grace**

**and bear the fruit of justice, peace and love,  
through Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

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

### **Assurance of Grace**

#### **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(During these pandemic days, we share peace with a nod or a bow,  
perhaps with hand on heart or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace.)*

# ENCOUNTER

*A Chime calls us to listen.*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson:** Mark 4:26-34

<sup>26</sup>He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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!**

**Thoughts on the Lesson**

Seeds of Expectation

## **RESPOND AND SERVE**

### **Affirmation of Faith/Saying Yes**

Because God cares for us,  
**we will care for each other.**

Because we are part of God's creation,  
**we will care for the earth.**

Because we are loved by God,  
**we will share God's love with everyone.**

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Prayers of Gratitude and Concern**

We pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayers.**

### **A Prayer for Our Congregation** *(together)*

**Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon the whole church,  
that we may be for you a holy people,  
baptized to serve you in the world.**

**Sustain this congregation in ministry.**

**Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ,  
strengthen our service to the outcast,  
and increase our love for one another.**

**Show us the transforming power of your grace  
in our life together,**

**that we may be servants of the gospel,  
offering a compelling witness in the world  
to the good news of Christ Jesus,**

**our teacher, friend, guide, companion and savior.  
Amen.**

### **The Offering**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

# SEND AND BLESS

Hymn 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar Hyd Y Nos

(As we listen to the hymn, read the words, or perhaps hum softly.)

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

## For the Fruit of All Creation 36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.  
MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784  
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

AR HYD Y NOS  
8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4

## **Sending Responses**

This is the good news:

**Christ has risen and the Spirit is with us!**

This is our story:

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

This is our new commandment:

**To love one another as Christ loves us.**

This is our calling:

**To pray and work for the justice and joy of God's realm.**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**



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## 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.*

### 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.

### Need to speak to the Program Staff?

Morton Harris, Co-Pastor  
Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor  
Virginia Callegary, Christian Educator  
Matt May, Director of Music Ministries

If you need to talk or would like to set up a Zoom conference with one of the staff, please contact them directly via their email listed below.

### Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, [www.firstpreshc.org](http://www.firstpreshc.org) for more info.



### 9:00 a.m. OUTDOOR SUMMERTIME WORSHIP

We gather on the Front Lawn, which is our Summertime Sanctuary. Please bring and wear a mask, and observe physical distance. The Park and Ride provides the most convenient parking. Please don't park on the street or next to the walkway. Remember to bring a chair or blanket. There will be self-serve church chairs available as well. Paper bulletins will be available. After worship we invite you to linger for Lemonade on the Lawn.

In case of bad weather please check the church website before you come! Information will be posted by 8:00 a.m. if the service has been cancelled.

For the next few weeks we have lots of visitors with us on the front lawn – Brood X Cicada family is in town. They love to sing and fly around! "All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres!"



## The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

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*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  
Matt May, Director of Music Ministries  
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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

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115