

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

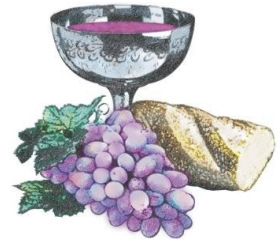
The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

September 1, 2024

10:00 a.m. In-person & Livestream Service



GATHER

Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.

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

* Please stand if you are able

Please remember to turn your cell phones to silent.

*This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet,
and you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

*For our online congregation - Let us know you are here! Post a greeting!
And remember that you can place a request in the Prayer Journal
in the comments on both You Tube and Facebook Live.*

Prelude

Fourth Movement from the Concerto for Organ

J.S. Bach

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 Worship

Your light is your Word; your blessings are our lamp.

Dark and twisting is the road to peace; happy the generation whose light will guide them to its end.

All: When all our children are taught of the Lord, great shall be the peace of all children.

* **Hymn 35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
(see next page for hymn)

Lobe den Herren

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, you search after us when we have gone far from you, yet we confess that we have become consumed with our own affairs. We seldom pause to listen for the wind in the trees or hear the happy voices of children. Sometimes we feel that the burdens of the world fall entirely on our shoulders, and we have been slow to put our trust in you or to cooperate with others. When we take ourselves too seriously, remind us that we are only human! Make us patient with our mistakes, even as we are willing to forgive others. And remind us that we are also precious, not because we are good but because you have accepted us and called us to be your very own. Amen.

(A time of silence is kept during which individual confessions may be offered.)

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 659** *(singing together)*

Know That God Is Good

1 Know that God is good. Know that
Mu - ngu ni mwe - ma. Mu - ngu

God is good. Know that God is good;
ni mwe - ma. Mu - ngu ni mwe - ma,

God is good; God is good.
ni mwe - ma, ni mwe - ma.

*** Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(We share peace with a nod or a bow, perhaps with hand on heart or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace. If worshipping from home, greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)

*** Response of Praise 692** *(singing together)*

Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
 Refrain F B \flat F B \flat C7

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
 Dm F/C B \flat C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
 F B \flat Gm7 F B \flat F *Fine*

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

Words of Welcome

*Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information!
 Then, pass the folder the length of the pew and back.*

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

²¹"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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.

(It is the church's policy to not put images of children on the livestream.)

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: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Doers!

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **Hymn 525**

Let Us Break Bread Together

(see next page for hymn)

Let Us Break Bread

Let Us Break Bread Together 525

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshippers' experience.

Concerns and Remembrances

The Offering

Offertory

Third Movement from the Concerto for Organ

J.S. Bach

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Ken Page

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[The prayer continues and concludes with this prayer:]

God in heaven, your name is to be honored.

**May your new community of hope be realized
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today the essentials of life.

**Release us from our wrongdoing
as we also release those who wrong us.**

**Do not test us beyond our enduring;
save us from all that is evil.**

**For you embrace justice, love and peace,
now and to the end of time.**

Amen.

Breaking the Bread

Communion Music

Communion of the People

*We will receive communion this morning
by passing the bread and cup to one another in the pew.
Gluten-free bread is in the center of the bread tray.
The trays will have red wine and white grape juice.*

*Our tradition is to eat the bread as it comes to you,
and then to hold the cup so we may commune together.*

Prayer After Communion

SEND AND BLESS

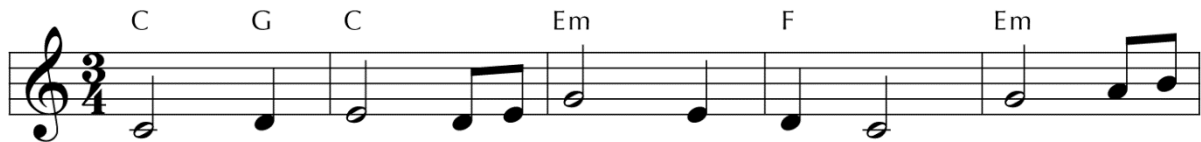
This Week at First Presbyterian Church

* Hymn 351

All Who Love and Serve Your City

Charlestown

All Who Love and Serve Your City 351



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 3 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 4 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our



peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:
 word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
 world that spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
 judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This 20th-century text greatly enriches the neglected genre of urban hymns. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34), and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city (Ezekiel 48:35).

TEXT: Erik Routley, 1966

MUSIC: *The United States Sacred Harmony*, 1799; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1964

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Music Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

CHARLESTOWN

8.7.8.7

* **Benediction**

* **Response of Praise 314** *(singing together)*

Christ, Be Our Light

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has chords G, C, G, Em, Bm, Em. The second staff has chords Am7, D, G, Dsus, D, Em, Em7. The third staff has chords C, Am7, D, G, Am7, G. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Postlude

Trumpet Voluntary in D

Henry Purcell



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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.

During Today's Worship

If your infant or child needs care 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.

Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

If you are new to First Church

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 become a member of First Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, www.firstpreshc.org for more info.



The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | www.firstpreshc.org

Ministers: All members of the congregation

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education
Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries
Megan Bondhus, Church Office Administrator
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator
Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

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 ✦

✦ We are a Matthew 25 Congregation ✦

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

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

