

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Communion

May 5, 2024

10:30 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 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

Prayer

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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

inspired by Psalm 98

You raise your hand and gently begin the concerto of creation:

birds carry the melody while stars keep the beat;

mountains dance in merriment

and little children clap their hands with joy.

Love's Composer,

our new songs are lifted to you.

* **Hymn 263**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Coronation

(see next page for hymn)

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

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.

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint,

Compassionate Heart,

when you would take them and toss them aside,

spent and useless.

You invite us to sit and chat

with someone who wants to know more about you,

but we are busy running errands.

You give us a simple command – to love –

and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Vine Grower.

You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope,

of grace deep within us,

so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others.

May we not get in the way of your Gardener,

Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop.

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

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 587** *(singing together)*

Alleluia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Alleluia response. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 8/8. The first staff has the following chord symbols above it: A, E, D E A, D, E. The second staff has the following chord symbols above it: A, E, Bm E A, D, E A. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes on both staves.

*** 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 243** *(singing together)*

Be Not Afraid

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid'. Each system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the vocal line of each system.

Words of Welcome

*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.*

A Moment for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 98:1-9

- ¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.
- ² The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
- ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
- ⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

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, who normally attend The Worship Bridge will return to their seats to experience a full worship service with their family.

(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: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

How Do We Know?

Kenneth Page

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

*** Hymn 496**

Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed

Arfon

(see next page for hymn)

Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed 496

1 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed, for thou art our
2 Vine of heaven, thy love sup-plies this blest cup of

food in - deed. Ev - er may our souls be fed
sac - ri - fice. 'Tis thy wounds our heal - ing give;

with this true and liv - ing Bread, day by day with
to thy cross we look and live. Thou our life! O

strength sup - plied through the life of Christ who died.
let us be root - ed, graft - ed, built on thee.

Both the names used to address Christ in this eucharistic hymn appear only in the Fourth Gospel. Jesus refers to himself as the Bread of Heaven in John 6:51 and as the True Vine in John 15:1. The text is set to a tune with diverse roots, Welsh and French, sacred and secular.

Concerns and Remembrances

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

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 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 outer circle is white grape juice; the inner circles are red wine.

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 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

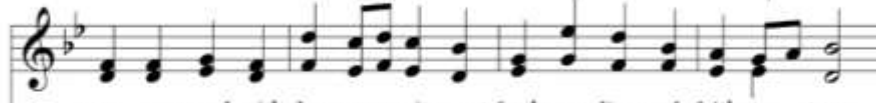
Beecher

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870
Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

BEECHER
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: EBENEZER)

* **Benediction**

* **Response 745** (singing together)

Now Go in Joy

Now go in joy to spread the Word till all peo - ple have
heard: God em - brac - es all! Fol - low, then, the dis -
ci - ples' call: tend your neigh - bors with lov - ing care
in dai - ly work and prayer. God's own
grace em - pow - er your spir - it. A - men!

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Am7, D, G, Am7, D, G, Am, D7, G, G, Am, D, G. There are asterisks above the first measure of the first staff and the second measure of the third staff.

Postlude

Great is the Lord

Donald Lee Moore



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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

Please turn all cell phones to "silent" when in the Sanctuary. Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

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.

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.

First Church Cares

To notify the pastor of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Ken Page, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

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

Program Staff

If you need to talk with one of the staff, please contact them directly via email.

Rev. Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org

For building emergencies contact, Church Sexton, Woody Collins, churchoffice@firstpreshc.org



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

Caroline Smith, Church 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 Presbyterian 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

