

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 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 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

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen, arr. M. Hayes

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

God's love is written on our hearts,

Implanted in our souls.

God's truth

Echoes in our words and lingers in our minds.

God's forgiveness

Reaches the deepest sin and releases the clearest song.


* **Hymn 366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

(see pages 2 & 3 for hymn)

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
 8.7.8.7.D

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.

Eternal and loving Father,

you comfort, support and encourage us.

Your goodness and kindness go beyond our understanding.

**Your grace is richer and deeper
than we can begin to comprehend.**

**Yet despite your gracious love and faithful care,
we seek to go our own way and to trust our own resources.**

Time after time, we choose our plans over your will.

**Over and over again,
our pride, self-reliance and self-centeredness lead us astray.**

We confess we are sinners in need of forgiveness.

We admit we are flawed, broken people in need of mercy.

**Through the person and work of Jesus Christ,
forgive us for all the times we have failed you.**

Cleanse our hearts, and make them fresh and new.

Renew our minds for your kingdom's sake.

Empower us to be your Son's disciples for his glory.

**We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

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

Assurance of Grace

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

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Response of Praise 587'. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The first staff has the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' with chords A, E, D, E, A, D, E written above it. The second staff has the same lyrics with chords A, E, Bm, E, A, D, E, A written above it.

* **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 song 'Response of Praise 243'. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. Each system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!'.

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.*

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:13-16

¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the LORD has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

¹⁴ But Zion said, 'The LORD has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me.'

¹⁵ Can a woman forget her nursing-child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.

¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.

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 the sanctuary later in the worship service.*

(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.**

Anthem

Variations on "Gather Us In"
The Handbell Choir

Michael Helman

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-10

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

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 Can I Be Sure God Forgives Me?

Kenneth Page

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **Affirmation of Faith** (*together*)

**We believe in God
whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating even death,
is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful
and full of doubt,
in God we trust;
and in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves in the service of others,
to seek justice
and to live in peace,
to care for the earth
to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness
and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful
so to be the church for the glory of God.**

* **Hymn 250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Promise

(see next page for hymn)

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
 F7 B^b Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 B^b Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

**Break down the dividing wall of hostility
by the power of your spirit.
Create a bridge of understanding
so that your entire Body can be knit together
in one holy peace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

The Offering

Offertory

I am Bound for the Kingdom
The Handbell Choir

Anna Laura Page

*** Doxology 609** *(singing together)*

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures
high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise
God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it
one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Chords: Bm, A, D, G, D, Bm, E, A, D, D, G, A, D, Em, A, Bm, Em, D, G, A, Em, G, A, D)

*** Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

*** Hymn 300**

We Are One in the Spirit
(see next page for hymn)

They'll Know We Are Christians

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

* **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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols (G, Am7, D, Am, D7) are placed above the notes to indicate the accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line.

* **Postlude**

Hornpipe from *Water Music*

George Frederik Händel



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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

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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

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