# 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)

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT



CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT



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)



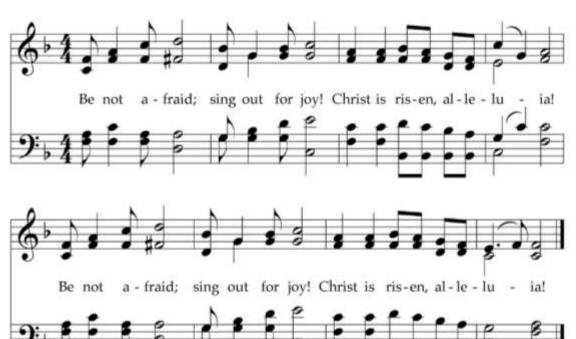
\* Sharing the Peace

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 worshiping from home, greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)

Be Not Afraid

\* Response of Praise 243 (singing together)



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. Alleluia!

## **ENCOUNTER**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

## First Lesson: Isaiah 49:13-16

 <sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> But Zion said, 'The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.'

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> 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

## Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, 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

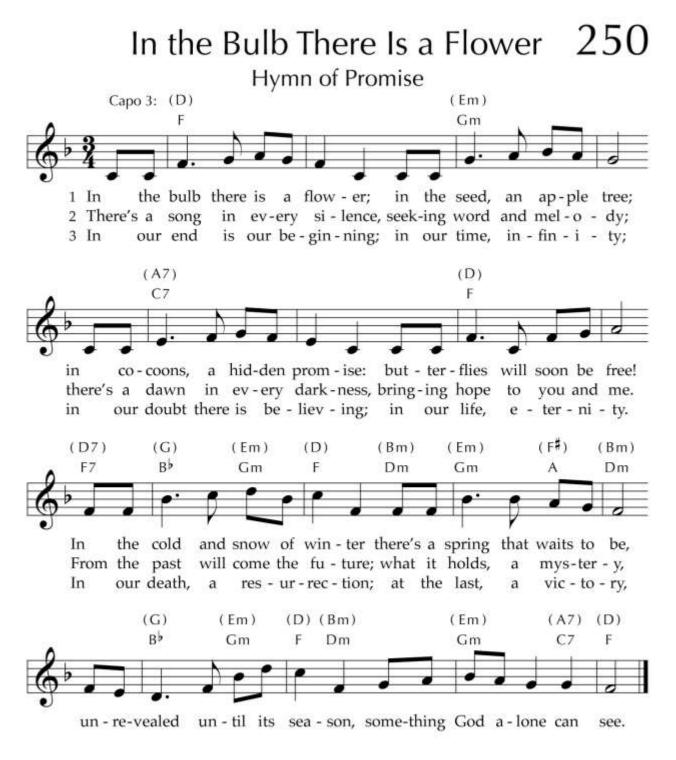
so to be the church for the glory of God.

\* Hymn 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Promise

(see next page for hymn)



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.

PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D 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.

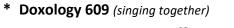
The Offering

Offertory

I am Bound for the Kingdom The Handbell Choir

Anna Laura Page

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow





\* 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



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.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966 Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp. THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS 7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain

## \* Benediction

\* **Response 745** (singing together)

Now Go in Joy



\* 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, <u>churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</u>

#### 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, <u>churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</u> Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education, <u>churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</u> Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, <u>churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</u>

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 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