# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

Fourth Sunday of Easter Earth Day Celebration April 21, 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 Lighting the Christ Candle

All Creatures of Our God and King

Geistliche Kichengesäng, arr. V. Labenske

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

#### **Call to Worship**

"O Lord, our Lord,

the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens."

We gather to worship you!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

And God saw that is was very good..."

We gather to worship our God!

All praise, honour, majesty and power

belongs to our Creating God!

Amen.

\* **Hymn 14** For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

(see next page for hymn)

# For the Beauty of the Earth 14



In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

#### **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.

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it. Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence.

Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.

Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.

Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray.

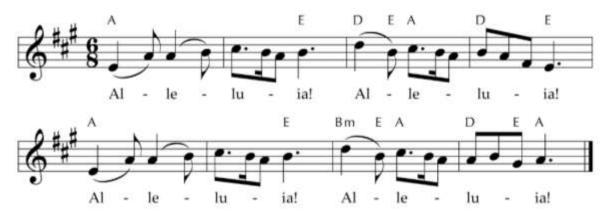
Amen.

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

#### **Assurance of Grace**

# \* Response of Praise 587 (singing together)

Alleluia!



# \* Sharing the Peace

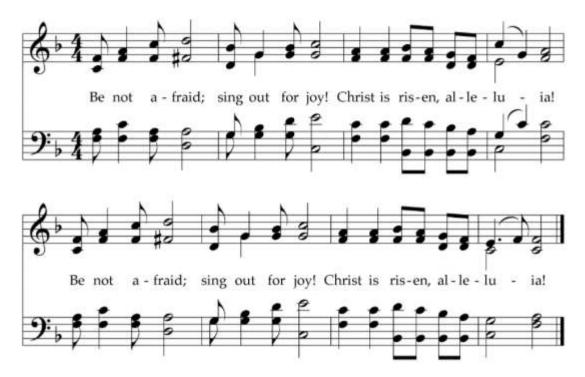
The peace of Christ be with you.

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.)

# \* Response of Praise 243 (singing together)

Be Not Afraid



#### **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: Genesis 1:26-31

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup> God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Charles Dupree

Second Lesson: Exodus 34:6-8

<sup>6</sup> The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." <sup>8</sup> And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

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

What Does the Bible Have to Say About Climate Change?

Kenneth Page

# RESPOND AND SERVE

\* Affirmation of Faith (together)

We believe in God the Creator, who created and is creating everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God. We believe in God the Christ, who saved and is saving everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us: each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who guided and is guiding everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit. We believe that this one God in three persons, is present among us, working directly in our lives and the lives of all who are born into this world, striving to bring us back into harmony with all creation and with God: forgiving, healing, touching everyone, never rejecting any who willingly receive this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life.

\* Hymn 713

Touch the Earth Lightly

Tenderness

(see next page for hymn)



An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.

#### **Concerns and Remembrances**

## **Prayers of Gratitude and Concern**

**Concluding Prayer** (together)

Jesus, Lord of the earth
By you all things were created,
For you all things were created,
In you all things now hold together,
In you all things are made new.
And all creation cries Amen!

## **The Offering**

Offertory

Terra Patris

Franklin L. Shepherd, arr. M. Hayes

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

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



\* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

# **SEND AND BLESS**

## This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Minute for Mission - Coffee Run & Fun

Lisa Whipkey

\* Hymn 26

Earth and All Stars!

Earth and All Stars



TEXT: Herbert Frederick Bioleving, 1964 NUSIC: David N. Johnson, 1968 Seet and Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House (actimis: Augsburg Fortress) EARTH AND ALL STARS 4.5.7.D with refrain

#### \* Benediction

# \* Response 745 (singing together)

Now Go in Joy



**Postlude** 

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Franz Josef Haydn, arr. R. J. Hughes



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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, <a href="mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org">churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</a>

#### 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.

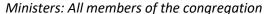
Rev. Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor, <a href="mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org">churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</a>
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education, <a href="mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org">churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</a>
Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, <a href="mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org">churchoffice@firstpreshc.org</a>

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



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

