

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Commitment Sunday
November 9, 2025

8:30 a.m. In-person

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.

**Those who are able may stand*

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 YouTube and Facebook Live.*

Prelude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

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

We want to be closer to God.

Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.

We want to live already in God's Kingdom.

Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.

We want to be the people God created us to be.

Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

(see next page for hymn)

Royal Oak

20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv - er run-ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well. *to Refrain*

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.

MUSIC: English melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

ROYAL OAK
 7.6.7.6 with refrain

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that we have stored up treasure on earth, placing our trust in our possessions and our money. We have made work into our master, letting work invade the time you give us to rest, to fellowship with others, and to worship. At other times we “make do” and “get by” in our work, rather than working with our whole heart. We have been overwhelmed by worry and stress, forgetting to place our work in your hands and to trust you for the harvest. We have resented our bosses, unfairly judged our coworkers, and lorded it over those we supervise. Forgive all of our sins because of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

* Response of Praise 647

Give Thanks

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

*** 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 Peace 764**

For the Troubles
 and the Sufferings
(chorus only)

Pelas Dores Deste Mundo

We pray for peace, the bless - ed peace that
 We pray for power, the power that will sus -

comes from mak - ing jus - tice, to cov - er and em -
 tain your peo - ple's wit - ness: un - til your King-dom

1 Em Em A9 2 Em7 A7 D
 brace us. Have mer - cy, Lord! come, Ky - ri - e - le - i - son!

Words of Welcome

*Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information on the
 Visitor Card in the pew rack! Place the Visitor Card in the offering plate.*

Moment for Stewardship

Annual Response Program

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.

¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well.

²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

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.

(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: Matthew 6:19-34

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

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

Simple Generosity

Kenneth Page

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

Commitment Time

* **Hymn 175**

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

(see next page for hymn)

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and seek, its righ - teous - ness,
 but and you shall find;
 by ev - ery word

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music - Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music
 (admin. Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY
 Irregular

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

Dear heavenly Creator, whatever else You see that we need—whatever is for the good of our neighbor and redounds to Your glory—we pray that You would grant to us, Your children. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory (8:30 am)

Ebb-Tide from Sea Idylls

Walter Carroll

Offertory Anthem (10:30 am)

i thank You God

Lloyd Pfautsch

Poem by e.e. cummings

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

* **Doxology 612, v. 1**

We Praise You, O God

Kresmer

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Moment for Stewardship

Christmas Stockings

* **Hymn 800**

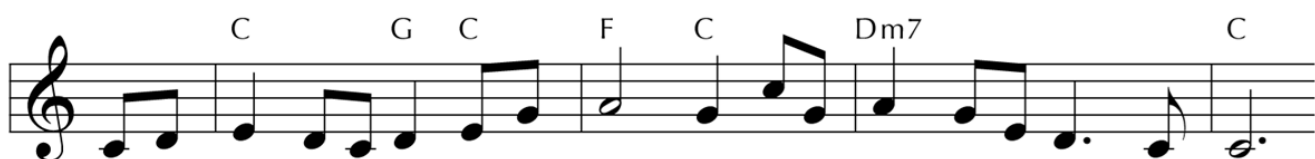
Sometimes a Light Surprises
(see next page for hymn)

Salley Gardens

800 Sometimes a Light Surprises



1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

This is one of the few hymns rooted in what can happen during worship, and that experience—gaining a spiritual insight while singing—is no less possible now than when this text was written in the 18th century. It is set here to a folk song variously labeled Irish or English.

* **Benediction**

* **Response #574**

Amen

Amen (Pavlechko)

G C Am7 D7 Em Am7 Dm7 G

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Postlude

We Gather Together

arr. Victor Labenske



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. 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 Presbyterian 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 Presbyterian Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

Visitors: You may be wondering why we are worshipping cramped into a small hall. We had a fire in July of 2025 and the Sanctuary and our Fellowship Hall are being reconstructed. Our worship of God and service of God's people continue and we are delighted to have you join us.

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

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

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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 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

