

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

*Seventh Sunday of Easter
Recognition of High School Graduates
May 12, 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

Gaelic Morning

Bunessan, arr. Dan Forrest

Introit

God of the Women

*Slane
text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

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 gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,
**who, like a mother,
knows us intimately,
loves us unconditionally,
teaches us the way we should go,
and comforts us in times of need.**

Praise God,

the Source and Sustainer of life!

* Hymn 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Darwall's 148th

(see next page for hymn)

THE CHURCH

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

TEXT: Brian Dill, 1988
 MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770
 Text © 1989 Brian Dill

DARWALL'S 148TH
 6.6.6.6.8.8

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 Divine Love,

when we fall, you lift us,

when we fail, you restore us,

when we are wounded, you nurse us,

when we grieve, you weep with us.

We, your daughters and sons, praise you.

But, we have failed to love as you do,

we have abused our bodies and those of others,

we have filled our minds with selfish dreams,

and violent plans,

we have made our hearts cold and empty of compassion,

we have forgotten our spirits,

and distorted your image within us.

As a mother disciplines her children,

we ask you to discipline us;

As a mother forgives the sons and daughters who hurt her,

we ask you to forgive us;

As a mother calls her children

to be reconciled with their siblings,

we ask you to lead us to reconciliation with one another.

In Christ's Name.

Amen.

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

Assurance of Grace

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

Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Response of Praise 587'. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has the melody with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' and chords A, E, D E A, D, E. The second staff has the same melody with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' and chords A, E, Bm E A, D, E A.

* **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'. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. 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: Psalm 1:1-6

- ¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
 or take the path that sinners tread,
 or sit in the seat of scoffers;
- ² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.
- ³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
 which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
 In all that they do, they prosper.
- ⁴ The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- ⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

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.**

Second Lesson: Acts 1:15-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶ “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the book of Psalms,

‘Let his homestead become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it’;

and

‘Let another take his position of overseer.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us--one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.”

²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

Christ’s Leprous Bride

Kenneth Page

RESPOND AND SERVE

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

We affirm God's anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
We believe weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.
We believe God has turned our mourning into dancing;
has taken off our sack-cloth and clothed us with joy.
We affirm that deceit is in the mind of those who plan evil,
but that those who counsel peace have joy.
We believe that to make an apt answer is a joy to any-one,
and a word in season, how good it is!
We affirm the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
For we believe we shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before us shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
We affirm Jesus said,
"If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love."
We believe Jesus said these things
so that his joy might be in us,
and our joy be complete.

Can God Forget Her Nursing Child?

The Rev. Kenneth G. Page
Dedicated to my Mom - Phyllis B. Page
Mothers' Day, 2000

O Waly Waly LM

Can God forget her nursing child?
Gone from her arms, no infant mild.
Though I have chosen far to roam,
She'll take me in, and nurse me home.

The Lord has not forsaken me.
Though I have failed God shamefully;
Though turned from God, I oft have stood;
A mother hen gathers her brood.

I shall be dandled on God's knee;
Born in her arms through greatest need.
When fears upon my life are piled,
Our Mother comforts me, her child.

Isaiah 49:15; Luke 13:34; Isaiah 66:12-13

Recognition of High School Graduates

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

**Holy Mother and Father of us all,
touch us with your healing peace and gentle embrace
that we may walk in your ways
bringing dignity, justice and peace to all corners of your world.
All of this we pray in the strong name of Jesus.
Amen.**

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Will be a Child of Peace

Elaine Hagenberg

O Holy Father, I will be a child of peace and purity.
For well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

*** 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 722**

Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak

Canonbury

(see next page for hymn)

722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you

ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

* **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 are placed above the notes: G, Am7, D, G, Am, D7, G, Am, D, G.

Postlude

Toccata on Darwall's 148th

Gordon Young



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. 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.

Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

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.

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

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



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

