

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church  
of Howard County

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
*March 17, 2024*

*10:30 a.m. In-person & Livestream Service*

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## 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**

I Pray to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ

*J.S. Bach*

## 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

Deep echoes of the soul,

**Voices of silence,**

Inner nudges,

**Persistent longing.**

It is the call of God,

**The pull of Lent,**

The season of reflection,

**The yearning for springtime joy,**

The thirst for living water,

**The desire for new life.**

**\* Hymn 826**

Lift High the Cross

*Crucifer*

*(see next page for hymn)*

## Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain  
Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.  
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

*to Refrain*

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.  
 MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985  
 Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company  
 Music Desc. © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER  
 10.10 with refrain

## 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.**

**Call us forth, O God,**

**to tend the places of beauty long forgotten,**

**to plant gardens in the deserts of hurt,**

**to pick flowers of hope when others see only despair.**

**Take us deep this Lent**

**and let us discover some boldness for action,**

**some rest for our weariness,**

**some healing for our wounds.**

**Let forgiveness flow like a gentle river,**

**and let our tables overflow with bounty and friendship.**

**Let hope linger like a fragrant rose**

**and our hearts be connected to the well-spring of your love and grace.**

**God of all life,**

**deepen our walk with you during these days of Lent.**

**Amen.**

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

### Assurance of Grace

\* **Response of Praise 447** *(singing together)*

*We Are Forgiven*

G Am D7 Gsus G C  
We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to

G Am7 Dsus D G Am  
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.

D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G  
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

**\* 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 604** *(singing together)*

*Lamb of God*

**604 Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace; grant us peace.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: Robert Buckley Farlee, 2006  
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

AGNUS DEI (Farlee)

**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 51:1-12

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

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**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*Gilbert Martin*

**Second Lesson:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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**

Go Easy On the Donuts!

*Kenneth Page*

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

## RESPOND AND SERVE

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

Into the silence of the void the Creator spoke,  
and the world came into being.  
The Word of God in the vastness brought light from darkness,  
matter from nothing,  
flesh from dust,  
life from lifelessness.

In the quiet of a small town in Palestine  
the Word of God came to us.  
Even though of one being with the Creator,  
Jesus our Christ, taking on human form, was born,  
lived and walked among us,  
speaking the words of life.  
He was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He rose from the dead and speaks to us today.  
He is the one who saves us from ourselves.

In the stillness of our souls the Spirit of God,  
who is one with the Creator and the Christ,  
whispers the Word,  
and calls us back to the Creator,  
back to the Christ,  
back to the wholeness of everlasting life  
in the unity of the Creator, Christ and Spirit.

## O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my  
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my  
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not  
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that  
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
 from the ground there blos - oms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.  
 MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET  
 8.8.8.8.6



## Concerns and Remembrances

### Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

#### Concluding Prayer *(together)*

Gentle God,  
God of covenant,  
of Love,  
Glorify us through Your love.  
Draw us to you, into you.  
Anoint us with your peace.  
Write your compassion in our hearts  
that we may love as you love.  
Amen.

#### The Offering

##### Offertory

Elegiac Prelude

*William France*

#### \* Doxology 708, verse 1 *(singing together)*

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

#### \* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

## SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

A Word from the Communications Strategy Team

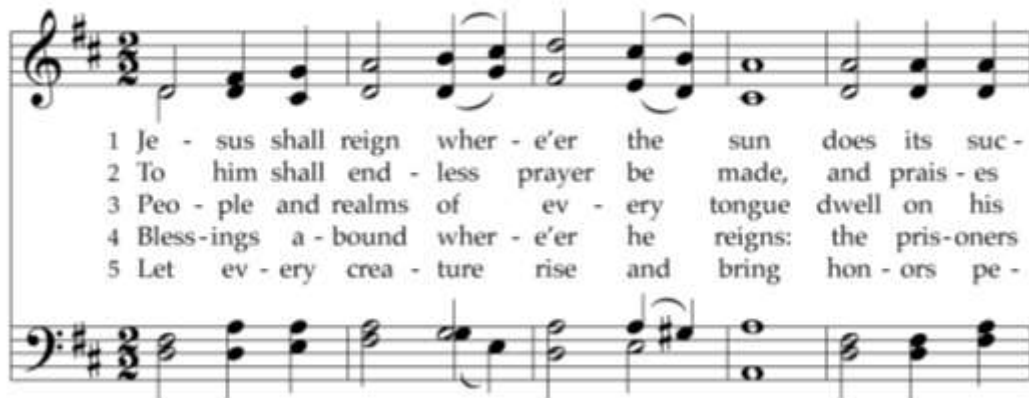
#### \* Hymn 265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

*Duke Street*

*(see next page for hymn)*

## 265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners  
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -  
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5-19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

\* **Benediction**

\* **Response 598** (singing together) *English and Swahili*

*Amen, We Praise Your Name*



Sing prais - es! A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!  
 Ma - si - thi! A-men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!



A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es! A-men, a-men.  
 A-men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi! A-men, ba - wo.



A-men, a-men. A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!  
 A-men, ba - wo. A-men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!

**Postlude**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

*David Cherwien*



## 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.*

### First Church Cares

To **notify staff** of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org) or call 410-730-3545.

### Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, [www.firstpreshc.org](http://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](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org)

**For building emergencies contact,** Church Sexton, Woody Collins, [churchoffice@firstpreshc.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstpreshc.org).

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## The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | [www.firstpreshc.org](http://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

