

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

First Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2025

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 You Tube and Facebook Live.*

Prelude

More Love to Thee, O Christ

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

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

After he was baptized by John,
Jesus went by himself to the wilderness
where he was tempted.

**Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted
to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.**

**Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent,
which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.**

**Let us worship God and walk the journey together,
seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way.**

* **Hymn 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
(see next page for hymn)

Lauda Anima

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore-bears
3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation.
So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season
that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did.
This we pray in his name. Amen

Assurance of Grace

* **Response of Praise 851** (*singing together*)

Woza Nomthwalo Wakho

All *

Come, bring your bur-dens to God; come, bring your
Wo - za nom-thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom-

bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for
thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho U -

Je - sus will nev - er say no.
ye - s' a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.

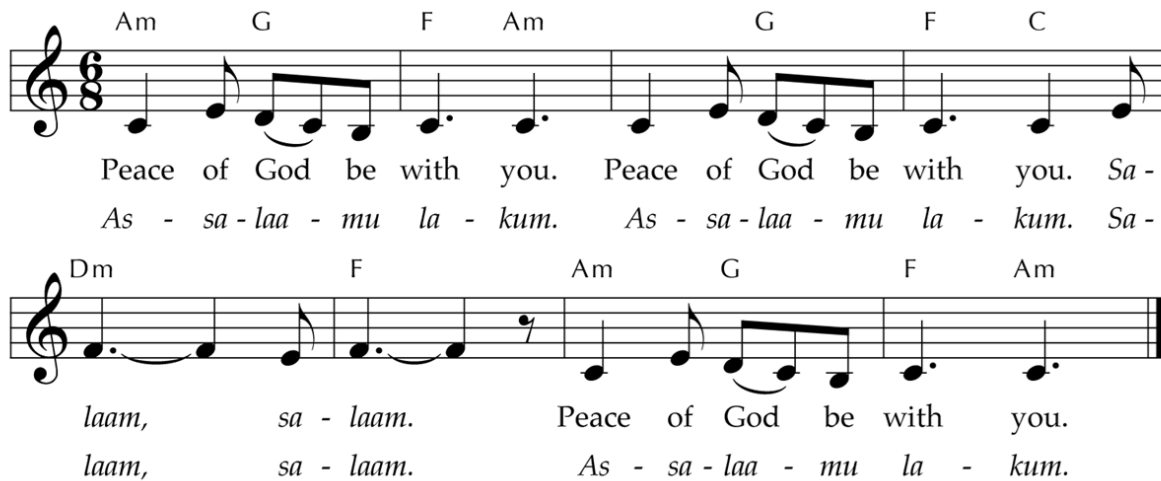
Sharing the Peace

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 Peace 448** (singing together)

As-Salaamu Lakum



Am G F Am G F C

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -

Dm F Am G F Am

laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you.
laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

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.

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 91:1-2; 9-16

¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

²will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

⁹Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,

¹⁰no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

¹²On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

¹⁴Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

¹⁶With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

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.

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

Wondrous Love

H.G.Young III

Rosemary, mezzo soprano; David, bass

Second Lesson: Luke 4:1-13

4Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Temptation

Kenneth Page

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

RESPOND AND SERVE

* Affirmation of Faith

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.
We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.
We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.
We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.
We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.
We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.
This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen

* Hymn 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days 166

The musical score is presented in two systems. The first system consists of a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment of chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The second system also features a treble and bass clef staff. The treble staff continues the melody, and the bass staff provides accompaniment. The lyrics continue below the treble staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be
pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

May we know
Your peace
Your love
Your justice
Your mercy
This day and all days
Amen

The Offering

Offertory

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Robert Below

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

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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!

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Moment for Mission

FUNdraising & Games for Coffee Micro Grants

* **Hymn 694**

Great God of Every Blessing
(see next page for hymn)

Aurelia

694 Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
 2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
 3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
 in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
 trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
 In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
 For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

* **Benediction**

* **Response #564** *(singing together)*

Amen (Schubert)

A musical score for the hymn 'Amen (Schubert)'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.' are written below the treble staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Postlude

Chorale and Fugue

Healey Willan



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.

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

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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

