

First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, Maryland

September 1, 2019 – 8:00 & 9:30 am Worship

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

God, we have gathered by you, summoned to your table.

As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality,

let your Spirit move among us and be present in the food we share

so that this bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.

Open our eyes to see Jesus, our ears to hear Jesus, our hands to hold Jesus, and our hearts to receive Jesus, the one who taught us to pray, saying: Our Father...

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

(All Christians, regardless of church affiliation, are invited to receive the sacrament.

Communion will be served by intinction; take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup.

Please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.

Persons who have difficulty walking are invited to signal a server to be served in the pew. Gluten-free bread is available near the baptismal font.)

Prayer

Generous and faithful God, you have fed us at your table.

May the nourishment we have received enable us to

enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here.

**Whether the future be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough,
whether our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or weak,
keep our hearts warm and our hands open our lives ever embracing
and ever embraced by your love. Amen.**

✦ **HYMN 726** - *Will You Come and Follow Me*

KELVINGROVE

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

God of grace, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust

**the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name we
experienced laughter and tears, hopes, disappointments, and accomplishments.**

**Confirm in us these treasured memories, even as we move in new directions,
until that promised time when we will be completely one with you and with each
other, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

✦ **BLESSING**

POSTLUDE (9:30) - *Prelude and Fugue in G*

J. S. Bach

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE (9:30) - Pastoral on *Blessed Assurance*

arr. Robert Lau

SILENT PRAYER

St. Columba

May God be a bright flame before you, be a guiding star above you, be a smooth path
below you, be a kindly shepherd behind you, today, tomorrow, and forever.

NOTICES OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Minute for Emergency Action Plan

(Pass the greeter pad down the pew and back.)

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Believing that God made and loves the world,

we gather.

That it may be reshaped to fulfill God's purposes,

we pray.

To seek a wisdom deeper than our own thinking,

we listen.

To honor God who gives us voice,

we worship.

✦ **HYMN 39** - *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

For the right roads we avoided traveling, and the kindly words we refused to share;

**for the false gods who received our worship
and the true selves we have starved of love...**

God, by your grace,

forgive us.

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly, and the promises which we never kept;

**for the careless use of our time and money
and the lame excuses we should have never made,**

God, by your grace,

forgive us. (Silent prayer.)

For all we should be and all we can amend, God, in your love,

renew us.

For all you have in store for us and all you may demand of us, God, in your love,

prepare us.

For the life of the world and the love of its people, God, in your love,

commit us.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear and believe these words of Jesus: Your sins are forgiven, Go in peace.

Come and follow me. Glory to the Creator who gives us life,

Glory to Jesus whose love remakes us,

Glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey.

Glory be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE - *Don't Be Afraid*

Iona Community

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN (9:30)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE - Psalm 23

You, God, are my shepherd; I need nothing more.

**You let me lie down in green pastures, You lead me beside still waters;
there you revive my spirit.**

You guide me in the right paths for you are true to your name.

Were I to walk through the darkest valley I should not be afraid;
for you are at my side, your staff and crook support me.

You spread a table before me in clear view of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil, my cup is overflowing.

Unfailing goodness and kindness will follow me all my days.

My home shall be in God's house as long as my life shall last.

SOLO (9:30) - *The Quiet Heart*, Stephanie Reuer, soloist

John Ness Beck

The quiet heart knows the pace of kindness.

The quiet heart measures love in gentleness.

The quiet heart sees beauty in reality.

The quiet heart survives in Understanding.

The quiet heart waits in yearning patience to find the mind of God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE - Luke 14:1-14 (CEB)

SERMON

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

✠HYMN 729 - *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

CALL TO OFFERING

God has blessed us and called us to be a community that honors one another,
to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions.

Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY (9:30) - *O Lord of God, I Come*

Ed Broughton

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

✠Hymn 507 - *Come to the Table of Grace*

TABLE OF GRACE

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

We love you, Holy God. We love you for the feast that is life:
friendships and laughter, intimacy and trust, moments of discovering deep truth,
hidden potentials we never knew we had,
And beauty—serene beauty and rugged beauty,
the world you have crafted and the words, the sounds,
the colors with which people reflect and explore life.

**We love you, holy God for not leaving us alone, because in Jesus you became
tangible: hands touched him, tears touched him, generosity touched him.**

And Jesus has touched us. That is why we are here.

That is why across time and eternity we sing because we cannot keep silent:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Community</u>
Sun 9/1	LAST SUNDAY OF SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE	
	8:00	Worship (courtyard)
	9:30	Worship (sanctuary)
	10:30	Congregational Meeting (sanctuary)
	11:00	Reception (FH)
Mon 9/2	LABOR DAY - Office Closed	12:00 Noon AA (FH) 7:15 ACOA (Music) 8:00 Monday Night AA (FH)
Tues 9/3	7:00 PNC (KC1a)	12:00 Noon AA (FH)
Wed 9/4	4:00 Bible Study with Rev. LaPenta 6:30 Stewardship (KC1a)	12:00 Noon AA (FH) 7:00 Ward 1 (FH)
Thurs 9/5	9:30 PWC Board (ZW) 7:30 Choir Rehearsal (music)	12:00 Noon AA (FH) 4:00 STAIR Training (KC4a)
Fri 9/6	OFFICE CLOSED - Every other Friday in Fall	10:00 STAIR Coordinators (KC4a) 12:00 Noon AA (FH)
Sat 9/7	9:30 Campus Care	8:00 Evening AA (FH)
Sun 9/8	FIRST SUNDAY OF PROGRAM YEAR	
	8:30	Worship (sanctuary)
	9:30	Education Hour
	10:30	Coffee Hour
	11:00	Worship (sanctuary)
	12:00	Session Q & A (FH)
	12:10	Come & Consider (Library Parlor)

Lisa Rzepka, Transitional Pastor

Heather Shortlidge, Associate Pastor

Bob Muckenfuss, Music Director & Organist / Miss Good, Family Ministry Director

First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, 171 Duke of Gloucester St, Annapolis MD 21401

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Partner with the Caibarién congregation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Cuba

The National Naval Memorial of the PC(USA) / An Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA)

Partner with Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, Czech Republic

Covenant Church with the Haiti Restoration Partnership

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING - The congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis will meet today, September 1, 2019, following the 9:30 am service for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the request of the Reverend Dr. Heather Shortlidge for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between herself and FPCA effective September 6, 2019. The Rev. David Harris, Baltimore Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, will moderate the congregational meeting in Rev. Rzepka's absence. The Rev. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk of the Baltimore Presbytery is also in attendance to answer any procedural questions. We welcome them to worship.

MOTION TO CONCUR IN THE REQUEST FOR DISSOLUTION - *That the congregation concur in the request of Rev. Heather Shortlidge to the Presbytery of Baltimore to dissolve the pastoral relationship between her and the congregation, effective September 6, 2019. A motion for the approval of *The Terms of Dissolution* will be distributed at the meeting.*

FLOWERS - in gratitude of Heather's ministry at First Presbyterian Church.

FROM HEATHER SHORTLIDGE - While prayerful support will continue, former pastors may not provide pastoral care or presence in a church member's life or the life of a member's family. They are unable to participate or return to officiate at funerals, weddings, baptisms, or other ministry activities, without a direct invitation from the Session. These boundaries are in keeping with Baltimore Presbytery's requirements of outgoing ministers, ensuring a smooth transition for the church and future leadership of the church.

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

September 8 - First Sunday of Program Schedule: Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary, Education Hour at 9:30 am, Coffee Hour at 10:30 am

Guest preacher, Dottie LaPenta, will preach from Jeremiah 18:1-11. The 8th ushers in the 2019-2020 program year with our regular Sunday morning offerings of worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am, Education at 9:30 am, and Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Join us!

Wednesday, September 11 - Taizé Worship, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm

A service of prayer, scripture and chant cohosted with St. Mary's Parish. Location alternates between FPC sanctuary and that of St. John Neumann. The 2019-2020 calendar is in the September newsletter and online (<https://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/library/public/documents/worshipandmusic/Taiz-Flyer-2019-20.pdf>).

GENEROSITY INITIATIVE: NEW APPROACH TO STEWARDSHIP & PLANNED GIVING

Revised Dates for Listening Sessions

The FPC Session has approved the "Generosity Initiative" for the fall stewardship campaign. In collaboration with the Planned Giving & Memorials Committee, the Stewardship & Finance Committee will be presenting the Generosity Initiative during Listening Sessions in Fellowship Hall immediately following services on **September 15 at 9:30 am and 12:00 pm and again on September 22 at 12:00 pm** (note new dates). The purpose of the Listening Sessions is to explain the church's current financial picture and to hear your suggestions on the priorities for First Presbyterian.

The goals for the Generosity Initiative include the following:

- Communicate the changes that have taken place in our membership, the resulting impact on our financial position, and the outlook using the Generosity Initiative for the years ahead as we grow and serve local and distant communities;
- Communicate the basic elements of the Generosity Initiative that will allow us to establish a stable financial position now and into the future;
- Ensure needed financial resources are in place to fund the congregation's priorities for 2020 and beyond;
- Increase awareness within FPC and in the communities we serve of our significant youth program, spiritual ministry and mission work;
- Implement an outreach program that maintains existing members and attracts new families;
- Build commitment and support in the congregation to encourage members to increase their active participation and financial support of the FPC programs; and,
- Increase awareness of the FPC Planned Giving and Memorial program as a meaningful opportunity to provide ongoing support of FPC's mission.

Please join us at the Listening Sessions on September 15 and 22 to learn more about the Generosity Initiative and provide suggestions for the success of this program. For more information contact Stewardship Elder, Dave Heimann (dJheimann@gmail.com), Linda Hanifin Bonner (lhbonner@hanifin.com), or Doug Smith (doug@5revell.com).

THOSE ASSISTING THIS MORNING - Preacher: Heather Shortlidge; **Liturgists:** David Hancock (8:00), Karen Smith (9:30); **Discovery & Time with Children:** Miss Good (9:30); **Ushers:** Doug Smith, Pat & Bob Foye (9:30); **Minute:** Ted Mussenden; **Communion:** Linda Hanifin Bonner, Betsy Stewart, Connie Scott (9:30); **Ministry:** Pam Mussenden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF NEWS - Rev. Rzepka is at an annual family reunion until Saturday, September 7. Rev. Dottie LaPenta will provide pastoral care in her absence. The church office will remain closed two Fridays per month through November.

FOOD DRIVE - Thanks to everyone, we collected 143 grocery bags! People who still have groceries to give should take them directly to the Light House Shelter (10 Hudson Street), drive to the back, and ring the buzzer. At the sign-in, indicate the donation is from our church. Email the number of bags given to Susan Gross (sscg144.outreach@gmail.com).

BEST WISHES - to Clair and Barbara Morris on their 60th anniversary this week.

NEWSLETTER - at rear of church & online <https://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/newsletter>.

SEPTEMBER 8 REMINDERS:

- **Sunday School** - for all ages!
- **Adult Ed** - KC4a, 9:30 am. DVD lecture series, 30-minutes each, with Old Testament focus (New Testament in 2020-21). Discussion will follow videos; no homework, just show up!
- **The Bean** - ZW House, 9:30 am. Ease into the Sunday with coffee and a lively discussion that ranges from current social issues that effect our community to thoughtful questions about faith. Each Sunday is led by someone different who chooses the topic.
- **Come & Consider** - Library Parlor, 12:10 pm. No RSVP necessary, children welcome. A brief, 20-minute conversation with the Membership Chair about the process.
- **Session Q&A** - Session will host a question and answer opportunity at noon in Fellowship Hall to answer transition inquiries.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN MEMBER TRAINING - September 29, 12:15-2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Training will include participation from Annapolis Office of Emergency Management, Fire & Police Departments. RSVP by September 15 via last week's Evite or to Ted Mussenden (tedcmuss@gmail.com / 410.703.2381).

PREFER THE BALCONY? Each Sunday, one volunteer is needed to record the sermon at one service. To help, contact Doug Smith (doug@5revell.com / 410.279.8603).

The Call to Worship, Confession and Prayer of Thanksgiving are from the *Iona Worship Book*.