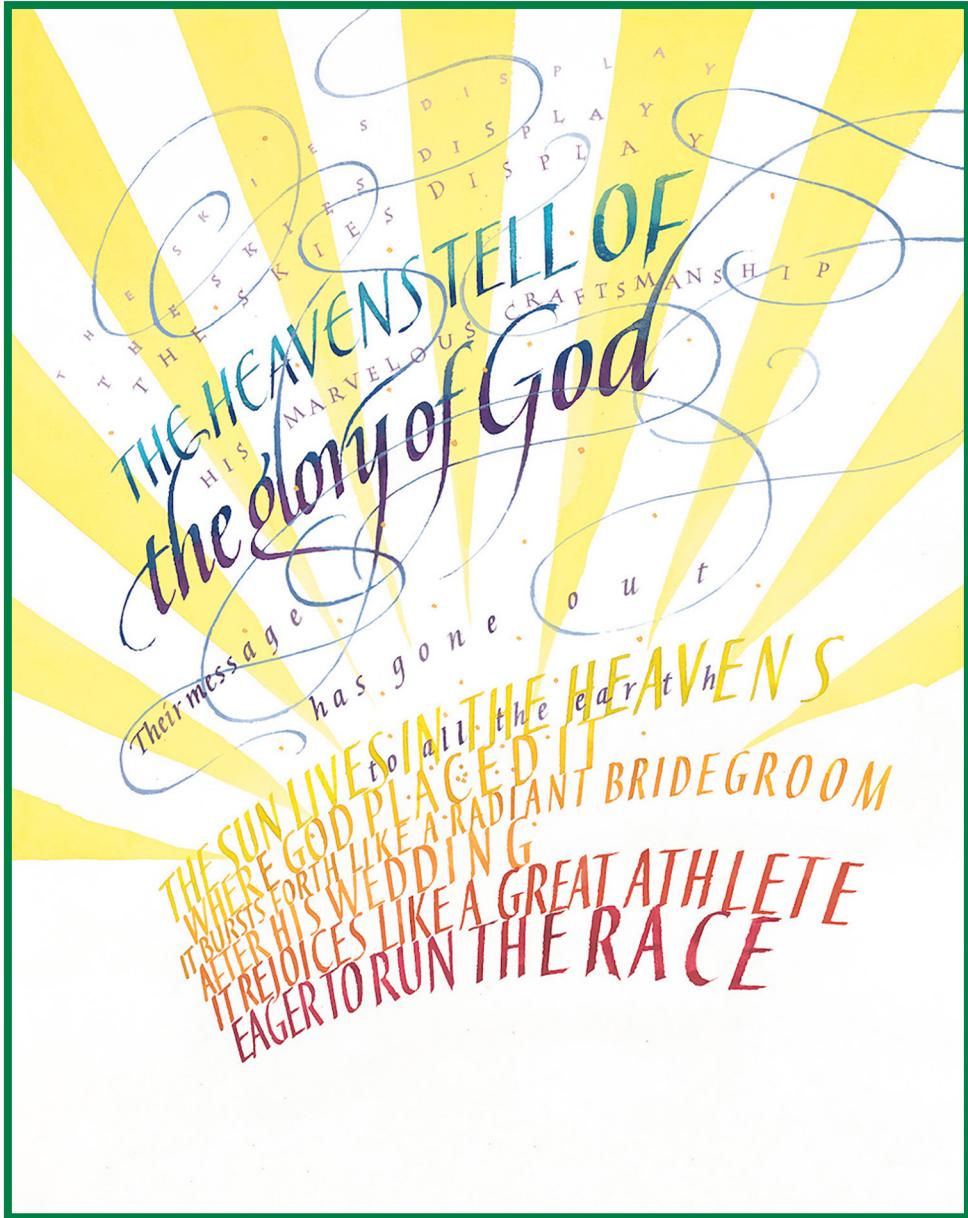


THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 23, 2022 • 9:30 a.m.



Psalm 19:1-5
Timothy R. Botts



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Please join in reading and singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

The Call to Worship is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

As His Own Soul from *Eight Bible Vignettes*

Nathaniel Dett

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION

Radio Ministry

Brad Taylor

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

All: God calls us to be builders as well.

One: God calls us to build our lives:

All: to restore broken places and continue to grow.

One: God calls us to build our faith:

All: to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.

One: God calls us to build our community:

All: to build bridges of understanding and systems centered on love.

* HYMN 409

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love, we confess that we do not live according to your way. We often fall into the trap of living according to our individual lives, forgetting that together we are the body of Christ and are called to live as such. We try to do everything on our own and do not lean on one another for help and support. We allow systemic injustice to continue on because we believe the lie that we can “pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.”

Forgive us, O God, and help us to remember that we are called to be in this work together, not alone...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

LAND OF REST



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and respond, “And also with you.”

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 300, *They'll Know We Are Christians*.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 19

One: Look up to the skies and you'll see God's glory and the work that God has done. The days tell stories to each other and the nights tell each other the news. They can't use words like we do, but they still speak. They leave us messages everywhere.

All: You are my strength, God. You're the one who makes me whole.

One: When we see a sunrise over the sea, it's like God put it to bed beneath the waters, and it makes its entrance in the morning from the deep like a runner ready for a marathon. The sun fills every corner of the sky at noon and heats up all you can see. God's words are just what I need. They give me reason to get up in the morning.

All: You are my strength, God. You're the one who makes me whole.

One: God's words for me put light in my eyes and clear my head in the morning. God's words are precious to me, and like honey on my lips. They are wise and make my heart glad.

All: You are my strength, God. You're the one who makes me whole.

One: If I can follow them, I know I'll be a better person and a better friend to all. God, keep speaking to me in ways that make me a better person. Help me pay more attention to your words than I do my own thinking, and I will be whole. Let the words on my heart and in my mouth be good ones, God.

All: You are my strength, God. You're the one who makes me whole.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The grass withers, the flower fades; **the word of the Lord endures forever.**

SERMON

The first scripture reading is from "God's Word, My Voice" children's lectionary. It will be read responsively.

This week's Growing in God's Love Bible story, "One Church" is found on page 306.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service.

Ways to give: click

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>

... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



Our pipe organ is undergoing electrical and console upgrades that were approved this past year. The work involves a considerable amount of rewiring to connect the new control systems. Thank you for bearing with us during this time when the organ is not completely functional. Good things are ahead!

Music copyrights:

All music is reprinted under OneLicense.net A-720542 and under CCLI license #20971309. All rights reserved.

Cover art copyright:

Psalm 019:1-5 © 2016
Timothy R. Botts |
Eyekons

RESPONDING

* HYMN 303

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

CHURCH UNITED

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory *The Heavens Are Telling* from *The Creation* E. J. Haydn

Chancel Choir; Imani Mchunu, Nicholas Music, Benton DeGroot, soloists
The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of God's work displays the firmament.
The day that is coming speaks to the day,
The night that is gone to following night.
In all the lands resound the word,
Never unperceived, ever understood.
The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of God's work displays the firmament.

* **Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* **Prayer of Dedication**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING

* HYMN 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

In the name of Jesus —
Let us Love...with **Open Hearts!**
Let us Learn...with **Open Minds!**
Let us Serve...with **Open Arms!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Madrigal Divine from *Eight Bible Vignettes*

Nathaniel Dett

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad you are here! Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, please sign the pad on our website to let us know you are here or you may click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2OflvBmiZ1jQUGxeXcsAIDITp2WEYepSmnjyQYMXbHHndA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>.

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Melissa Anne Rogers; Faith in Action – Brad Taylor; Liturgists – Hannah Lundberg and Mark Mares; Scripture Reader – Elspeth Gerety; Children’s Message – Melissa Anne Rogers; Preacher – Megan Berry; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Soloists – Imani Mchunu, Nicholas Music, and Benton DeGroot; Organist – David Hufford; Pianist – Catherine Moore; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Len Rezmierski (captain), Marolin Bellefleur, Clem Gill, Keith Molin, Karla Olson-Belfi, Beth Sanderford, Joe Schmidt, and Angela Yang

Chancel flowers are given in gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the dedicated service of Carter Hodgson, Elder, Chair of the Personnel Committee, who died into Eternal Life on January 9, 2022. We hold his family, especially his beloved wife Peggy, in our prayers as we entrust him to God’s eternal care. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Flowers are also given by the Congregational Life Committee in honor of Sara VanderVoort, an active member of our committee for 20 years! Sara is retiring from the CL group, but will continue to serve in other ways at First Pres, including as a Deacon for Chapel 10. She leaves a big hole to fill! We encourage new members to join our team as we create fellowship events, sponsor the new member classes, and ensure a successful Coffee Hour when in-person gatherings return. See Rev. Rogers or Gail Grady if interested.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are Ginny Rezmierski and Gale Redding. “By prayer we couple the powers of heaven to our helplessness, the powers which capture strongholds and make the impossible possible.” – O. Halleby

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Social Hour today immediately following the Closing Voluntary. **Our conversation prompt:** What spiritual gifts do you bring to the congregation and the community? Enter Social Hour today by clicking <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8225711636>. **There is no in-person Social Hour this Sunday.**

FAITH FORMATION TODAY

The Bible at 11 o'clock (Zoom only) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117387186>
All are welcome to join our study of Isaiah led by Rev. Ed Koster.

Exploring the Faith and **First Friends at 11:30** (Zoom only) <https://emich.zoom.us/j/89149132347>
All are invited to discuss Adam Hamilton's video “Creed: What Christians Believe and Why. Exploring the Apostles’ Creed.”

In-person classes for Children and Youth are on pause due to Covid concerns. This includes Children's Choir and “Amazing Stuff: God's Gift for Growing Up” which is postponed until February. For information about other opportunities to connect for children, youth and families, contact Rev. Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), Minister of Youth & Families, or Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children & Family Ministry (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

There WILL be Faith Formation for youth online via Zoom at 11 a.m. Email Pastor Mark (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for the link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rotating Shelter: Thank You All! Thanks go to all the generous donations of time, funds, snacks, and warm clothing to the Rotating Shelter here at First Pres. For the past two weeks the Shelter successfully helped 15 men, currently unhoused, have a safe and warm place to sleep and eat. All 126 shifts needed to operate the Shelter – Evening Hosts, Overnight Hosts, Drivers & food/clothing donors – were completely filled by over 75 volunteers. We are so grateful to everyone who volunteered in some way to make this a welcoming Shelter. Hearty thanks also to Adrian Prundeanu and his staff for taking measures regarding Covid and advising us on protocol. Under his watchful eye, First Pres offered guests and church volunteers a healthy and safe environment. We are especially thankful for the leadership of Marcey Terrien and Jim Peggs who were the chairpersons and organized the many details involved in this program. We look forward to having more of our First Pres members join us next year.

T2A2 Small Group meets off-site at 7:00 p.m. to study the book of Romans. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, a working professional or a grad student, we invite all in their twenties and thirties to come and build community with us as we share meaningful conversations and reflect on the Word together. For more information, please email t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is called by Session for next Sunday, January 30, at 4:00 p.m., for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report of the church, voting on changes to the installed pastors' terms of call, and acting on any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting will begin immediately following the Closing Voluntary. This virtual meeting may be accessed by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>.

Daytime Handbell Choir begins February 17! Have you ever wanted to ring handbells? Now is your chance. No experience needed. We will rehearse on Thursday afternoons, 2:00 – 2:45 p.m., in the Handbell Room. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music Fine Arts at dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org

February First Sundays – lunch sack packing! Help the Faith Formation and Local Missions teams achieve their the goal to pack 75 lunches for community members in need! Consider dropping off donations to First Pres on or before January 30 and then join in the packing fun on February 6. This easy 3-step process will help our community in need. Check out the First Pres website for a list of suggested items to purchase: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/event/first-sunday-event-february-6>

Our January donations and financial contributions support Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County. Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Personal care items are of particular need since they cannot be purchased with Bridge Cards. Donations will be coordinated by the First Pres Local Missions team.

Our Local Mission Grant Program is gearing up for 2022. Every year First Pres supports our neighbors in need through grants to local community agencies. In 2021 we distributed \$73,000 through 12 grants, each worth between \$5,000 and 10,000. Some grants go to long-time partners while others go to new applicants. Visit our web page <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/mission/local-missions/local-mission-grant-program> for more information. During January we are reviewing our funding priorities and updating the application process. Contact Martha Kershaw (mdkershaw@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to participate.

Visit our art exhibit “Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic” by Christina Saj. “Finding Sanctuary” is displayed in the Social Hall. This body of work takes shape from the circles on which they are painted. The Pandemic collection seeks solace in aesthetics, delivering hope and faith through image, form, and color. Its intention is for each painting to bloom in our collective gardens, offering glittering rays of sunshine, the echo of children’s laughter, a burst of flowers to sustain us through these tragic times. Christina Saj is a contemporary artist whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern. The artwork is for sale for \$225 a piece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales.

Mature Singles meet on Friday nights. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

The Men's Study Group meets on the first and third Friday mornings, 8:30–9:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room for coffee, study, and conversation. This winter we are reading *As Kingfishers Catch Fire: A Conversation on the Ways of God Formed by the Words of God* by Eugene Peterson. This collection of sermons is packed with insights and wisdom from a thoughtful pastor and preacher. All meetings are hybrid with both in-person gatherings as well as via Zoom. All men are welcome! Books are available in the Church Office for \$18.00. Questions? Contact Rev. Jay Sanderford, jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340.

Journeys Bible Study is a women's group that meets via Zoom on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We're studying Acts, incorporating art, poetry and music. This Fall, we reflected on the drama of Jesus' ascension story. We continue with the quick-moving spread from Jerusalem to the entire Roman Empire, the impassioned disciples' preaching about the gift of the Holy Spirit to ordinary people and God's authority holding power above the governing elite. A Resident Minister facilitates the discussion on a rotating basis. Contact Coordinator, Beth Gerwig at bgerwig@comcast.net for more information. The Zoom link is <https://02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>.

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women. There are several monthly Bible studies that all women of the church are welcome to attend. Contact Meg Brown (lmegbrown@gmail.com) for more information. PW sends out timely information in email blasts so that all women of the church may stay connected. Let Meg know if you would like to be added to the email list.

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. Would you like prayer for yourself or others? Use this form by Sunday evening: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/prayer-request/>. If you would like to join this group, email Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for information and the link. For those in worship today, to share a prayer today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.

Contact the Church Office if you would like to donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$75.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) to grab a cup of coffee or for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. We meet weekly and can be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>.

UM Women's Basketball Game v. Iowa — Join Your Church Family! Sign up for free tickets for you and your family for the Big 10 game v. Iowa on Sunday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m. Once you sign up, you will be contacted about how to get your ticket. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-first1>

Fast-Track to Membership today! Interested in joining? We make it easy! Today, around 11:00 a.m., after worship and Social Hour, join us in the Lead Pastor's office (any usher can direct you) to meet with a pastor, and 2 Elders. It takes about 20 minutes, and we'll provide all the support you need afterwards. A new member class follows, offered multiple times per year, for those who feel moved to join. You can join as a full member (with the right of voice and vote in congregational meetings) or as an affiliate member (meaning your membership is lodged elsewhere). You already belong – now let's make it official in 2022! For more information, contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org or 734-5662-4466 ext. 390). The next fast-track opportunity will be on Sunday, February 13.

Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist

Rev. Megan Berry
Resident Minister

Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse

David Hufford
Organist

Rev. Hannah Lundberg
Resident Minister

Rev. Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families

Rev. Evans McGowan
Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries

Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse

Shayla Powell
Children's Choir Director

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor

Rev. Jay Sanderford
Associate Pastor

Beca Torres-Davenport
Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer
Minister of Music & Fine Arts



Rev. Matthew J. Warfield
Resident Minister (In Memoriam)

Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant

Nick Dibacco-Vaidya
Finance Assistant

Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator

Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist

Kathy Houser
Technology Coordinator

Diane Knibbs
Administrative Assistant

Anna Miller
Finance Manager

Allie Milot
Communications Coordinator

Adrian Prundeanu
Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson
Office Manager



First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
1826-2021

1432 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104