

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 20, 2022 • 9:30 a.m.



Many Doors
Carol Aust

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.

Call to worship:

The worship of God is the central purpose of the church. The primary focus of worship is not to inspire or motivate us (although we may be inspired and motivated) but to love God for God's sake. The call to worship, then, grabs our attention and beckons us to focus on God. It reminds us why God is praiseworthy and deserving of our worship.

Christian worship is more than a passive response to God's revelation. It is in itself — proclamation. Worship both announces the good news of God's love for all the world and invites all people to share God's saving embrace. This active response would not be possible without the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who endows the community of faith and individual Christians with the gifts that are necessary for God's service.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Cantilena

Josef Rheinberger

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.

All: Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God's actions.

One: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

All: The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.

One: Let us worship God!

* HYMN 372

O for a World

AZMON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your unending grace...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Christ, _____ have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

This is Hymn 577, *Lord, Have Mercy* (KYRIE ELEISON - REINDORF).

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

"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

This is Stanza 1 of Hymn 444, *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* (DETROIT).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 6:27–38

One: The grass withers, the flower fades;

All: **But the word of the Lord endures forever.**

SERMON

RESPONDING

* HYMN 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Ubi Caritas
Chancel Choir

Maurice Duruflé

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.

Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur.

Timeamus et amenus Deum vivum.

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Let us rejoice and be glad in Him.

Let us fear and love the living God.

And may we love each other
with a sincere heart.

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Amen.

This week's *Growing in God's Love Bible story*, "When Jesus Was Twelve" is found on page 198.

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.



* **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 410**

God Is Calling through the Whisper

Polish Carol

* **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

Processional

William Mathias

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary.

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad you are here! Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshiping 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/1FAIpQLSd2OFFlvBmiZ1jQUUGxeXcsAIDITp2WEYepSmnjQYMXbHHndA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>.

The 9:30 worship service is broadcast on WAAM 1600 at 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Mark Mares; Liturgists – Melissa Anne Rogers and Jay Sanderford; Scripture Reader – Charles Balaan; Children’s Message – Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Megan Berry; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Dick Carlisle (captain), Sheila and Keith Bilby, Jim Cameron, Carol Carter, Connie and Marty Swindle, and Joe Schmidt; Welcome Center Volunteers – Ginny Horan and Barbara Mueller

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Delia and Laurin Hunter by their daughter, Molly Dobson. Flowers are also given by the First Pres Pastoral Care Department in honor of Molly Dobson, who turns 99 on February 18.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. “There is an inseparable union between the Spirit, the Word and prayer.” – H. W. Frost

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Social Hour today immediately following the Closing Voluntary. **Our conversation prompt** is “What is one way you can love a stranger this week?” Enter Social Hour 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.

First Friends and Exploring the Faith (Zoom only at <https://emich.zoom.us/j/89149132347>) at 11:00 a.m.
Join us for a video presentation and meaningful discussion on “Creed: What Christians Believe and Why.”

Children's Faith Formation News: A link for online Faith Formation classes at 11:00 a.m. is available through your weekly Children & Family email. Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children & Family Ministry (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org) for additional questions and other opportunities to connect.

Children's Choir is on pause until March.

Youth Formation News: All youth and their families are invited to use the “Faith Formation @ Home” resources in our weekly youth email. If you would like to subscribe to the youth email, have any further questions, or for information about other opportunities to connect youth and families, contact Rev. Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), Minister of Youth & Families.

Twenties and Thirties Group: T2A2 Small Group meets tonight at 7:00 p.m., off site and on Zoom to discuss *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. 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. No need to have read ahead of time! For more information, please email hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81301199181?pwd=dUR4ZzNEeENNTU5yQ0YxTUJ1ck5LZz09>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Back! On March 1, we are returning to many of our in-church activities as we begin our journey through Lent. Our theme "Wilderness | Welcome" invites us to take advantage of most of the programs that our church has to offer in safety and comfort. Beginning in March, the 8:00 a.m. worship service will return. Coffee Hour in the Social Hall, Worship Lab, Adult and Youth Faith Formation classes, Campus lunches and special Lenten activities will all be available in person (with a hybrid option for many of these activities). Other committees and groups will have the opportunity to schedule meetings in person (with a hybrid option a possibility also). Weekly office hours for the Welcome Center and Church Office will return to 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

We strongly recommend that everyone who is eligible, be fully vaccinated and boosted. While the spread of the Covid 19 virus is decreasing in our community, it is still contagious and there are many among us who remain at risk or who are in close contact with at-risk individuals. We will continue to wear masks and to follow other precautions for now as we gather inside the church building.

Caring for our Healthcare Workers. During the month of February we will have posters in the Narthex, Lounge, and Welcome Center for all to sign. These posters will be delivered to the cardiovascular unit at UM Hospital to show our love and support to all of the healthcare workers. Please take a couple of minutes each Sunday to sign your name and show your love and support of these amazing caregivers.

A Sanctuary Guild is Forming! The purpose of the Sanctuary Guild is to serve our church by maintaining the Sanctuary and Monteith Hall and preparing them for worship according to the liturgical seasons. Each Sunday, we need to be sure the pews are put together — with hymnals, paper in the friendship pad, prayer cards, and more! And the Narthex needs to be spruced, too! This is a job that can be shared by a small group. Serving on the Guild would mean you are willing to take a turn each month helping, but not be responsible every month. For this job, most of the prep work would occur on Friday afternoon, but on wedding weekends, it might be Saturday late afternoon, or even a bit early on a Sunday morning. Along the way, you will get to know others helping and enjoy the gift of fellowship. Interested? Contact Rev. Rogers, (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) or Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org).

Daytime Handbell Choir rehearses on Thursday afternoons, 2:00 – 2:45 p.m., in the Handbell Room. No experience is needed. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music Fine Arts at dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org

March First Sundays – lunch sack packing happens March 6! Help the Faith Formation and Local Mission teams achieve their goal to pack 75 lunches for community members in need! Consider dropping off donations to First Pres on or before February 27 and then join in the packing fun on March 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-now-march-6>.

Our February food donations and financial contributions support Community Action Network (CAN) and Washtenaw Community College Student Emergency Fund (WCC). Non-perishable food (for CAN) 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 (for WCC) may be made by check or online. Donations will be coordinated by the Youth Ministry.

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

"Grief Conversations" takes place online each month. You are invited to join the conversation, led by Rev. Rogers. Mutually supporting one another, we learn about grief and share more about our experiences and struggles. The meeting is the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m., for one hour. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87990641051>.

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women. PW sends out timely information in email blasts so that all women of the church may stay connected. Contact Meg Brown (imegbrown@gmail.com) to be added to the list and for information about these PW-sponsored Bible studies: Horizons Bible study (monthly), "Evenings with Jenna" (monthly), and William Barclay Commentary study (weekly).

Our current art exhibit closes next Sunday, February 27. "Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic" by Christina Saj, is displayed in the Social Hall and may also be visited virtually at the small gallery view (<https://matterport.com/discover/space/NXWfViMnFvq>) or the main lobby view (<https://matterport.com/discover/space/f5TDiZsGqjZ>). The artwork is for sale for \$225 apiece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales. If you have delayed making a purchase, please do so this week.

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>.

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 (mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for information and the link. For those in worship today, to share a prayer request today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.

Donate Chancel flowers in memory of in honor of a loved one. There are many openings in the next few weeks. Either sign-up online (<https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/giving-flowers-for-a-loved-one/>) or contact the Church Office. The 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>.

Opportunity for Ministry at Alpha House. During the week of March 21–27, First Pres will be supporting guests at Alpha House, a shelter for children and their parents who are experiencing homelessness. Sign up online to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaf2daa8-alpha5>. Contact Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com), Anne Gere (argere@umich.edu), or Ruth Jensen (ruthannjensen@gmail.com), if you have questions.

Refugee Resettlement Project. Plans are taking shape for First Presbyterian to co-sponsor a family experiencing refugee status in the coming months, with support and guidance from Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. This is an exciting opportunity, and will require lots of support and involvement from our congregation. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Hannah Lundberg (hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org).

T2A2 Ice Skating: Our twenties and thirties group will shift their regular Thursday night fellowship time this Wednesday, February 23, in order to go ice skating outdoors at Buhr Park at 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining, contact Hannah Lundberg (hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org). Advance sign-ups are needed.



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Drive-through Imposition of Ashes

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Family-Friendly Service

5:30 p.m., in Monteith Hall

Ecumenical Taizé Service

7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Our theme for Lenten worship this year is Wilderness | Welcome. Each Sunday we'll wrestle with Scripture passages that deal with questions of hospitality, loneliness, discovery, loss, and hope in the midst of wilderness moments. Many of us have been living in the wilderness for far too long. This Lent, we will enter our third year of pandemic life with losses and hard realities all around us. Often, as we navigate these places of uncertainty and pain, our first instinct is to turn inward, to focus on ourselves, and to clench our fists until we can make it to the other side. Our faith invites us to a different response: one where fear leads us to turn toward one another, to rely on God's presence, to build love and support for all, and to trust that we do not journey on difficult roads alone. God calls us to welcome the wilderness and to turn wilderness into welcome.

Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist

Rev. Megan Bery
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 Prudeanu
Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson
Office Manager



First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
1826-2021

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