

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27, 2022 • 9:30 a.m.



*The Return of the Prodigal Son*  
Elena Murariu

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 season of Lent** is often marked by a journey: our traveling from the mountaintop of transfiguration back into the treacherous terrain leading to Holy Week and Easter. Turning to the cross leads us to reflect, remember, repent, and then reclaim our identity as children of God. We welcome you as you listen for God's invitation in your life.

# GATHERING

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Chanson (A Sacred Song)*

Kenneth Lowenberg

Sanctus Ringers

## WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rumi

One: Come, come whoever you are, worshiper, wanderer, lover of leaving.

**All: Ours is not a caravan of despair.**

One: Come, even if you have broken your vow a thousand times.

**All: Come, come again, come.**

### \* HYMN 774

*There Is Now a New Creation*

STUTTGART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One,**

**You extend welcome and generosity to us in abundance.**

**Even so, we confess that we have been reluctant to receive that welcome for ourselves, and that we are even more reluctant to honor your welcome for others. Forgive us, O Lord.**

**Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior...**

## SILENT PRAYER

## KYRIE

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Have mer - cy, Have mer - cy, Lord. Have mer - cy, Have mer - cy, Lord. Have mer - cy." The piano part provides a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

This is *Psalms 123: Have Mercy* by Greg Scheer.

*Cantor's text:*

Our eyes look to you,

Our eyes look to heaven,

Our eyes look to you

Until you show your mercy, God.

Cast your eyes on us.

Cast your eyes on earth.

Cast aside the proud

Who bind us with no mercy, God.

## 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

**O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.  
"Come home, come home!  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

*This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 418, *Softly and Tenderly*.*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING      Psalm 32

People whose sins are forgiven are happy people.

When the Lord says,

"You're not guilty of anything; you're a happy person, too. You can be happy there's nothing in you that wants to cause any trouble.

For a while I was quiet about my sin, and I felt like I was wasting away, and I groaned all day long.

**God, you are the place I can hide.**

**You keep me safe from trouble.**

I felt like God's heavy hand was on me day and night. My mouth was all dried up like it was the middle of summer.

I was so thirsty.

But then, I told God about my sin, and didn't hide anything from him.

**God, you are the place I can hide.**

**You keep me safe from trouble.**

I said, "I'm going to come clean to God about what bad things I've done." And God forgave me and my guilty feelings went away. People who love God should tell God when they've caused trouble for themselves, then when the times get worse, they won't feel like the floodwaters will cover them up.

**God, you are the place I can hide.**

**You keep me safe from trouble.**

**This season of Lent we join together as a community in faith, building love and support for all as we seek ways to turn wilderness into welcome.** Our first scripture reading each week will be in the form of a responsive reading. Many of these readings come from *God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children*, in our continued growth as a church to invite us into unity – one body of Christ. These adapted readings create an entrypoint of biblical understanding for our younger readers, while still wrapping us in the comfort of God's Word with which we are familiar.

God says,  
"I will teach you how you should act, and show you the way. I've got a really good eye, and I will use it to guide you."  
So, don't be like a horse or a mule – they don't know what's going on. They have to be fitted with a bridle or else they'll just wander away.

**God, you are the place I can hide.  
You keep me safe from trouble.**

People who don't want to go God's way will always find themselves in trouble.  
But if you love God and trust in God,  
God will hug you in God's loving arms.  
You've got lots to be happy about, and you can be happy about God.  
Shout for joy, those of you who have given your hearts to God.

**God, you are the place I can hide.  
You keep me safe from trouble.**

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

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

### SERMON

## RESPONDING

### ANTHEM

*Thou Knowest, Lord* from *Requiem*  
Chancel Choir

Bob Chilcott

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;  
Shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer;  
But spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty,  
O holy and merciful Savior, thou most worthy judge eternal,  
Suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death,  
To fall from thee.

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

#### Offertory

*The Road Home*  
Chancel Choir

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago?  
All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know there's a way,  
there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done.  
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,  
Through the air there's a calling from far away,  
there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

**This week's *Growing in God's Love Bible story*, "Two Sons and Their Father" is found on page 218.**

**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 here:  
<https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>  
or give via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call,  
with the love in your heart as the only song;  
There is no such beauty as where you belong:  
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

\* **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 173**

*A Woman and a Coin*

LIFE RESTORED

\* **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**

*Liturgical Improvisation No. 1*

George Oldroyd

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*Please remain seated until the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary.*

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# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**Wilderness | Welcome** is our theme for Lenten worship. Each Sunday we will 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 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 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.



## **Welcome Back Rev. Daniel Ervin!**

Our guest preacher today, Daniel Ervin, was a well-loved Resident Minister here at First Pres from 2015 to 2017, serving alongside Revs. Emily Béghin and Angela Ryo in a diverse cohort of young pastors. Since completing our Residency Program with distinction, he has served as Pastor of LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church in Wood River, Illinois. Under Daniel's guidance, two congregations in the Wood River area joined ministries together to become one strong, vibrant community of faith. Daniel grew up in Statesville, NC. After studying Social Work and Spanish at NC State University, he attended Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, earning a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology.

**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/1FAIpQLSd2OFFlvBmiZ1jQUGxeXcsAIDITp2WEYepSmnjyQYMXbHHndA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>.

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

**Worship Leaders:** Welcome – Jay Sanderford; Liturgists – Hannah Lundberg and Melissa Anne Rogers; Scripture Reader – Sarah Lundy; Children's Message – Evans McGowan; Preacher – Daniel Ervin; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Sanctus Ringers; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Ushers – Paul Smith (captain), Beth Gerwig, Keith Molin, Beth Sanderford, Carol Smith, and Angela Yang

**Chancel flowers** are given in honor of Barb DeLancey, Stacey Pakela, and the Re-opening Committee guiding our church safely through the Covid pandemic; and in loving memory of his twin sister, Harriet Johnson Mack, by her brother Henry Johnson.

**The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are Michele Derr and Ginny Rezmierski. "When it comes to prayer and intercession, words are important but not necessary." – Beni Johnson

**Join us for Coffee Hour** today in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary.

**Faith Formation Hour** is at 11:00 a.m. There are classes for all ages. See our website for more information.

**Children's Choir** rehearses at 10:45 a.m., with Children's Faith Formation classes following at 11:15 a.m.

**Youth Faith Formation classes** meet at 11:00 a.m.

**The Bible @ 11:00** meets in the Curtis Room and via Zoom (<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** meet in the Social Hall at 11:00 a.m., for *Visio and Lectio Divino*, a class led by Callie Feyen, a member of the Liturgical/Visual Arts Team. This class is based on the two Stations of the Cross art exhibits currently on display in the Social Hall. All are welcome!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Session has called a Special Meeting of the First Presbyterian Congregation for Sunday, April 3, 2022,** at the conclusion of the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. The purpose of this Special Congregational Meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect two people to the office of Ruling Elder to complete unexpired terms of office. Jim Schaafsma was previously nominated and elected in January; Nancy Fox and Penny Papadopolous have been nominated to serve First Pres as Ruling Elders.

**Ukrainian Appeal:** Our Presbyterian response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead. The needs for the response are great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" – Give | Act | Pray: **Give:** Gifts may be made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance through First Pres. Checks marked "Ukraine" may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to First Pres. Give online here: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/campaign/C-115MR>. **Act:** Send gifts. **Pray** for peace.

**Easter flowers to honor or remember loved ones may be ordered through Palm Sunday, April 10.** The cost is \$18 per plant. Sign up on our website or by contacting the Church Office.

**Our March donations and financial contributions support Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti.** 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. Donations will be coordinated by Presbyterian Women.

**No-Sew Care Blankets for UM Cardiovascular Center Patients.** Do you have extra fleece from a craft project taking up space in your closet and you're not sure what to do with it now? Consider donating it to our First Sunday event for May. We will host a service opportunity for everyone to help make no-sew blankets in the Social Hall that will go to palliative care patients at the UM Cardiovascular Center. If you have fleece to donate, or would like to purchase and contribute fleece, please bring it to the church by April 10, and then come back on May 1 to tie some blankets!

***En la Mesa de Dios // At God's Table: A Stations of the Cross Experience***

**April 3–17 | Sundays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Mondays – Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

Experience the Holy Week narrative by taking in the art of *En la mesa de Dios / At God's Table*, illustrated by Joel Schoon-Tanis. Both an audio track to help in the walk-through and a pamphlet will be available

**Peeps and Pizza EGG-stravaganza on Holy Saturday!** Team up with family and friends on Saturday, April 16, from 10:00 to 12:30 a.m., in the Social Hall and on the Front Lawn to create your own Bible story shoe box diorama using those "Crazy Marshmallow Peeps" – chicks and bunnies and Jesus, oh my! A pizza lunch and children's egg hunt will be offered on the front lawn at 11:30 a.m. Use this link to sign up for the pizza lunch: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/peeps-and-pizza-eggstravaganza-2022/>.

**Refugee Project Language Request.** Do you speak a language other than English? While we wait to learn where the refugee family our church will support is from, and what language they speak, the leadership team of the Refugee Resettlement Project would like to assess the existing language skills in our congregation. Translation skills are particularly needed in welcoming and resettling refugees, but we'd love to learn about any language proficiency you might have. Email Sid Smith ([sidsmith@umich.edu](mailto:sidsmith@umich.edu)).

**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](mailto:imegbrown@gmail.com)) to be added to the list and for information about these PW-sponsored Bible studies.

**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. All meetings are hybrid with both in-person gatherings as well as via Zoom. All men are welcome! Questions? Contact Rev. Jay Sanderford, [jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org).

**Journeys Bible Study**, a women's group that meets via Zoom (<https://02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>), from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., meets this Thursday, April 7. Resident Minister Hannah Lundberg facilitates the discussion. Contact Coordinator, Beth Gerwig, at [bgerwig@comcast.net](mailto:bgerwig@comcast.net) for more information.

## OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT

### Lenten Email Devotions

Begin each day with a Lenten email devotion written by church members and staff. Sign up with Rev. Rogers ([mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org)).

### Home Worship Gatherings

Simple worship gatherings are held in homes on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Gatherings are limited to a maximum of 15 people. Use this link to sign up for a home worship gathering: <https://bit.ly/3uD4fr6>.

### Wilderness | Walking

Join your church family for a weekly walk in Lent. All are welcome! Information on dates, times, locations, and sign up is available online using this link: [bit.ly/3oAMTY9](https://bit.ly/3oAMTY9).

### AGO Organ Series

Join us throughout Lent for a free concert series on Fridays at 12:00 p.m., through April 8, at 12:00 p.m., in our Sanctuary. All are welcome to attend these free, hour-long concerts!

### Lent Art Exhibit

All are invited to enjoy two different Stations of the Cross art exhibits in the Social Hall throughout Lent.

### Holy Week Worship

#### **Palm Sunday, April 10**

Worship at 8:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall and at 9:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary. The 9:30 a.m. service is livestreamed and may be accessed via YouTube and Facebook, and via radio at 11:00 a.m.

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 14**

Worship at 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary, and via Livestream.

#### **Good Friday, April 15**

Worship at 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary, and via Livestream.

#### **Easter Sunday, April 17**

Worship at 7:00 a.m. on the Circle Terrace, and at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m., in the Sanctuary. The 9:30 service is livestreamed and may be accessed via YouTube and Facebook, and via radio at 11:00 a.m.

### 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  
*Church Operations Manager*

**195<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor  
1826-2021

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