

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 2, 2021



I Am the True Vine
Sadao Watanabe



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**. It is not yet safe to sing together as a congregation. (The choral ensemble sings with special singers' masks.) As you listen to the hymns and responses, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the texts.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Prelude on "Eventide"*

C. H. H. Parry

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm 22)

One: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

Many: those who seek God shall praise the Lord.

One: Turn to the Lord!

Many: May our hearts live forever!

One: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

Many: All the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord.

One: Future generations will be told about the Lord.

Many: Let us proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn.

* **HYMN 245**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

LLANFAIR

This hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin. As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Lord, we don't always feel connected to you or each other. We force things in life, rather than rely on you as our life force. We wallow in puddles of our own pity, rather than soak in the lakes of your love. Renew us, O Lord. Restore us, O Christ. Revive us, O Spirit. May we be once more connected to you, and reach out and connect to our sisters and brothers, strangers and neighbors, those alike and those different, and be one in love, grace and truth.

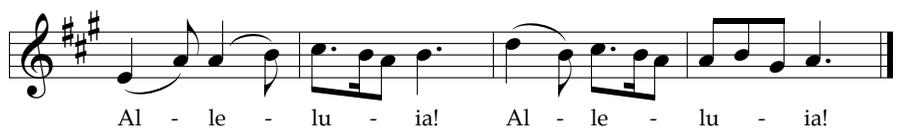
SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

As you listen to the response, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.



This is Hymn 587, Alleluia (CELTIC ALLELUIA).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Acts 8:26–40

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 15:1–8

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

Do You Believe in Miracles?

RESPONDING AND SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

I Am the True Vine

Arvo Pärt

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away;

And every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it,

that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me, and I in him, The same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered;

And men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will,

And it shall be done unto you.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;

Even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you,

And that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: online on the First Pres homepage ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

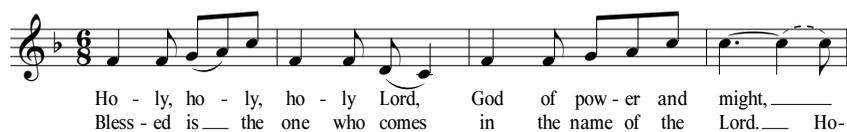
All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Music *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

This is Hymn 698.

Prayer after Communion

During his ministry, Jesus shared meals as a sign of community and acceptance. As we gather for communion, know that you are welcome in this community and accepted at Christ's table.

"As this broken bread scattered on the mountains was gathered and became one, so too, may your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom." – *The Didache*, one of the earliest Christian texts.

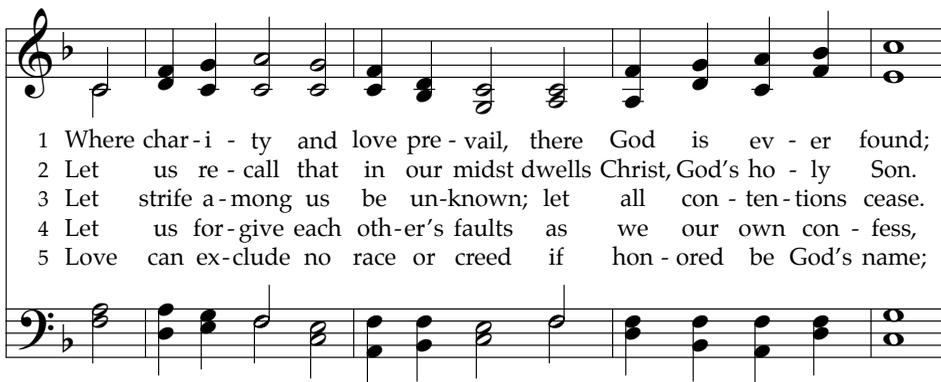
SENDING

* HYMN 316

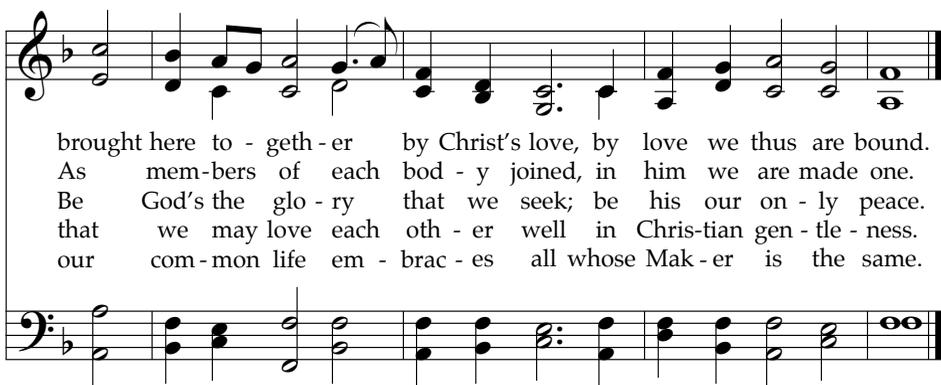
Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.
3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
4 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con - fess,
5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.
our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2RlIg2l>

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Wir glauben all' an einen Gott*

J. S. Bach



Please remain seated until the conclusion of the closing voluntary. The ushers will dismiss the congregation from the back of the sanctuary forward.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Eastertide at First Pres – Held by Baptism

Jesus himself was baptized by John in the Jordan River – but his only mention of baptism was in his final appearance in the Gospel of Matthew (28:19–20): "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Maybe one sign of the holiness of what we've come to call a sacrament is that its assurance of God's company in our lives touches us on a level deeper than words. "And remember," Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the end of time."

For us, baptism is foundational to the family of God: a mark of grace upon each life touched by the waters, a sign of welcome into beloved community. At First Pres this spring, the season of Eastertide will be bracketed by celebrations of this most joyful sacrament: with the Glanda family on April 11, and the Stelter family on May 23. These weeks will help us, each and all, to feel held by grace in the Spirit-ed company of the One who is with us always and forever as we consider how to be faithful to our mission to "make God's love visible" in our community and in the world.



Baptism by Fulvia Prundeanu

A note from the artist: "I am a traveler through the world of art. Each of my pieces is a snapshot of my young journey, a colorful celebration of life's many blessings. May *Baptism* bring you all peace and joy."

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Mark Mares; Liturgists – Melissa Anne Rogers and Jay Sanderford; Scripture Reader – Anna and Leina Kaehr; Children's Message – Beca Torres-Davenport and Andrew Frazier; Preacher – Evans McGowan; Vocalists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, Tyrese Byrd, David Magumba, Benton DeGroot, Al Williams, Elijah Emmons, and Brent Ivey; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Video Production – Bill Hall; Sound Production – Rol Kibler

Today is Communion Sunday. As we come to the Lord's Table to be fed and nurtured in our faith, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of May will be overseen by our Local Missions Team. Financial contributions and food donations will be directed to Food Gatherers.

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Alma Kruger by Ruth Primas; in loving memory of Maxine and Lewis Profit by their son Kirk Profit; and in appreciation and thanksgiving to Linda Strodman for her efforts in helping the members and friends of our congregation to find and get the Covid-19 vaccine.

A red rosebud celebrates the birth of Griffin Riley English, born April 2, 2021. Griffin is the son of Riley and Alexandra Ford English.

A pink rosebud celebrates the birth of Juniper Jo Buche-Gottlieb, born April 12, 2021. Juni is the daughter of Mike and Jessie Gottlieb and the granddaughter of Carol and Doug Gottlieb.

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary. **Our conversation prompt:** Have you experienced a miracle in your life? Enter Coffee Hour by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) for a discussion led by Amanda Carlisle on affordable housing.

Exploring the Faith meets today at 12:15 p.m. via Zoom. In May, Exploring the Faith will join with Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, and our former Resident Minister Angela Ryo, for four virtual sessions with prominent seminary professors to discuss current cultural and social realities and the church. Today's presentation is "Looking Back on the Church" with Dr. William Yoo, Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89898696667?pwd=RmltejNQWTJmZWZQSGYrYjM4V3BYUT09>.

Bible Study @ 5 meets today via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>) at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport (btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org), Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families.

Today is Family Sunday. Christian Formation classes for children and youth do not meet on Family Sundays and the Children's Choir does not rehearse.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time.

Today is Family Sunday. Christian Formation classes for children and youth do not meet on Family Sundays and the Children's Choir does not rehearse.

Middle School & High School Youth Group meets in-person from 2:00–3:15 p.m. on Sundays in May (except May 9 or May 29). In case of bad weather, we plan to meet on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Email Rev. Mares at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org for the link.

Save the date! Join us for a day of service on Saturday, May 22, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Alpha House. We have lots of projects planned for some spring cleaning!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Taizé Prayer Service is this Tuesday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

The prayer team meets Monday mornings via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357>) from 9:00–9:30 a.m. with Rev. Rogers. Join us to offer prayer for others or bring the needs of you and your loved ones for prayer. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. We will gather virtually and in person at various points over the summer. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@first-presbyterian.org) to grab a cup of coffee or for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact Ginny (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) on the second and fourth Thursdays monthly at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Frazier (afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings, but planning only one or two weeks at a time. Please call Marcy (995-2519) if you would like more information.

Mature Ministries in May: Join us via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5502657984>) for two outstanding Lunch & Learn offerings:

Thursday, May 13, 12:00 noon, "Mackinac Island: From Furs to Fudge"

Thursday, May 20, 12:00 noon, "Assisted Living: What to Know"

PW Horizon's Bible Study meets Thursday, May 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m., via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81113291748>) to discuss Lesson Nine: "The End of Lament and Finding Hope." Contact Meg Brown for more information (lmegbrown@gmail.com).

A Virtual Hymn-Sing by the Sanctus Ringers, Chancel Choir, and FPC Section Leaders is available on YouTube and Facebook.

A Virtual Art Exhibit by Benjamin Winans is available at www.benjaminwinans.weebly.com.

First Pres women are pilgrimaging in 2022! If you are interested in walking the Northumberland Way in England, and having a spiritual experience as a group of women while walking the beautiful, ancient route, contact Rev. Rogers for more information. Dates are TBD, but approximately May 15–28. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-pilgrimage>. Deposits are fully refundable for now.

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>

Share your talent at the All-Church Variety Show on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Your act must be three minutes or less. You may record your act or talent from home or schedule a time to record yourself in the Sanctuary. Is there an act you could perform with members of your family? Contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. Videos must be submitted by May 12.



First Pres strives to be as diverse as God's kingdom, and as wide and hospitable as the Spirit's embrace. Here, we don't all look, act, or pray alike. God knows we do not all think alike. We Presbyterians do not read the Bible the same way. Our questions are different, our burdens are diverse, and our aspirations are distinct. But every Sunday, we worship as one, unified by the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We worship a living God who calls us to love and support one another. Together we can do marvelous things – and grow closer to God and one another along the way. Come visit us – everyone is welcome! If you are new to us, we invite you to visit and explore our many programs and service opportunities.

Did you know? There are two unisex bathrooms available in our building. One is on the second floor, near the kitchenette and one is on the Lower Level, just inside the maintenance wing.

2022 Nominations for Church Leadership

The 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee is tasked with, and has begun to discern, through recommendations and the power of the Holy Spirit, whom God calls to serve First Pres as Elders, Deacons and Congregational Nominating Committee members, with terms beginning in January of 2022. We humbly seek insight and help from congregation members to identify potential church leaders. We seek to represent the diversity of our congregation in ages, stages of faith development, ethnicity/race, gender and sexual orientation.

For those who may be interested and want more information to assist in their decision to suggest members for consideration, Elder and Deacon job descriptions are found at www.firstpresbyterian.org. Those who are selected will receive training at times TBD, beginning in September, whether virtually or in person, and based upon the status of Covid-19 at that time.

According to the *Book of Order*, those called to these ministries should be persons of faith, discipleship, and love of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Those suggested should be members of at least two years, and have given of their time, talent, and if possible, their financial means in some way, at least in the few years prior to election. The Congregational Meeting for election will be in September of 2021. The terms begin in January of 2022 and are:

- Three years for Elders and Deacons
- Two years for members of the Congregational Nominating Committee

Please submit suggestions for these important positions by May 13 in care of the Congregational Nominating Committee by mail (1432 Washtenaw Ave. A2 48104); by email (CNC@firstpresbyterian.org), or by dropoff in person to the church in the CNC box in the Welcome Center, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Suggested members should have agreed to have their name submitted. Please indicate your name, their name, and the position, and why you are submitting the name of this person, and the qualities that you believe make this member a good candidate.

If you have further questions, please contact Chairperson, Katie Parker, Elder (734-218-0033; mgobluebarn47@yahoo.com), or any of the CNC members noted below. We are all happy to speak with you about your questions.

Members of the CNC are:

Becky Gaffney, Deacon (734-474-1472; bandbgaffney@gmail.com)

Downs Herold, former Deacon and Elder (734-665-2588; jdherold@comcast.net)

John LeDuc, Deacon (734-846-2910; john@jleduc.com)

Pat Liljestrang, former Deacon and Elder (734-455-3441; lilypat2@gmail.com)

Bill McPherson, Elder (734-604-2504; wbmcperson@comcast.net)

Cassee Stem, T2A2 (269-921-9218 (evenings); cassee.stem@gmail.com)

Jeff Teucke, Elder (201-709-2772; jteucke1@gmail.com)

Elisabeth VanVliet, T2A2& Cong Life (614-565-7146 (evenings); evanvliet88@gmail.com)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Barbara DeLancey, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator
J. P. DiMaggio, Interim Bridge Administrator
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Coordinator
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
David Hufford, Organist
Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families
Reverend Evans McGowan, Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Stacey Pakela, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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