

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2021 ♦ 9:30 a.m.



Awesome Majesty
Anneke Kaai



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

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.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams
Church Orchestra

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION Pastor Nominating Committee Tom Brandt

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.

CHORAL INTROIT *Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY

Children's Choir; Shayla Powell, Director; Brent Ivey, Accompanist

Allelu, Alleluia!
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia!
Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you
Allelu, Alleluia!
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather together here,

**All: In the name of Christ, recognizing each moment is a gift of God,
an opportunity to reach out in service to all creation.**

One: We are not here to enlighten ourselves,

All: But to allow Christ to enlighten us.

One: We are not here to make ourselves better,

All: But we are cleansed by the Blood of Christ.

One: It is not we who chose Christ,

All: But Christ who chooses us.

One: Christ testifying to the truth declares, "My kingdom is not of this world."

**All: The greatest among you is the one who serves, and whoever
becomes humble like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of
heaven."**

One: Let everyone praise the Lord.

All: Christ's name be praised.

* **HYMN 265** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we so often try to lead ourselves, and often separate ourselves from your direction. We often look out for our own benefit neglecting our neighbor and those whom we are called to care for. We busy ourselves with work, and accomplishments that have nothing to do with you. We hold on to grudges and spite, refusing to walk in true reconciliation with one another. Lord, may we begin to look for you in places of service to others, not places of advantage for ourselves. Show us how to love others as You have loved us. Teach us Your compassion. Lord, hear our prayer. Lord, hear the desire of our hearts to be those who bring glory to your name. Lord, create in us clean hearts and renewed spirits that we might model the mutuality and reciprocity of your divine triune nature to this broken world. That we may truly follow the work of your Spirit, and actions of your Son, Jesus the Christ...

SILENT PRAYER

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 may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

This is Stanza 2 of Hymn 643, *Now Thank We All Our God* (NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 2 Samuel 23:1–7

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 18:33–37

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

SERMON

What Is Truth?

This week's Growing in God's Love Bible story, "I Will Not Leave," is found on page 138.

Worship Lab, a hands-on experience for our youngest disciples, is a place where children can ask questions and dig deeper into the various parts of Presbyterian Worship. Children will learn what they have to offer to worship as they discover and understand their place in the Body of Christ on Sunday mornings. Worship Lab immediately follows A Conversation with Young Disciples.

RESPONDING AND SEALING

It is important to remember that baptism is not so much something we do, but rather something that God does. In Baptism God claims us and names us as one of God's own children. Baptism is both God's gift and our acceptance of the gift of God's saving grace. We baptize in response to the God who first loved us, and we remember that we did not choose God, but God chose us.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

In keeping with the reverence of worship, photos may not be taken during the service.

Lindsey and Peter Gudritz present their son, Arthur Riddell Gudritz, born September 25, 2019, for baptism.

* Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*

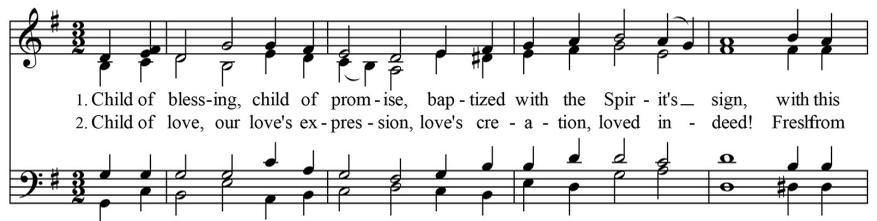
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water and Baptism

Hymn 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM



1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's— sign, with this
2. Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed! Fresh from



wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
God. re-fresh our spir-its; in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.

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 [online at our First Pres website](#)...via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

The Last Words of David

Randall Thompson

Chancel Choir

He that ruleth over all must be just, ruling in the fear of God.
And he shall be as the light of the morning,
When the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds;
As the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.
Alleluia. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.

This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 643, *Now Thank We All Our God* (NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT).

* 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 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* CORONATION

* 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 *Simple Gifts* arr. Marsha Shapiro
Church Orchestra

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, either click <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l> to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website.

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Melissa Anne Rogers; Faith in Action – Tom Brandt; Liturgists – Mark Mares, Megan Berry, and Jay Sanderford; Scripture Reader – Linda Speck; Children's Message – Melissa Anne Rogers; Preacher – Matthew Warfield; Musicians – Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Orchestra; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Greeters – John and Dawn Pankopf and Al and Sheryl Powell; Ushers – Len Rezmierski (captain), Marolin Bellefleur, Clem Gill, Karla Olson-Belfi, Beth Sanderford, and Joe Schmidt

Prayers of the People

During this prayer we come with praise for who God is; with thanksgiving for what God does; and with requests for God to heal, to transform, to renew us and work out all the complicated details of our lives. Jesus said, "When two or three of you agree upon anything on earth, it shall be done for you in heaven."

Children's Choir will rehearse today at 10:30. Please meet Ms. Powell at the pulpit door.

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Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Ryan and Lorryne Mulder by Charley, Marta, Mark, David, and their families.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are Diane Knibbs and Angela Miller. "Prayer without action grows into powerless pietism, and action without prayer degenerates into questionable manipulation." — Henri Nouwen

Join us for Coffee Hour immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Today Coffee Hour with coffee and sweets returns to our Social Hall! Please continue to wear your mask when not actively eating and drinking while remaining in the Social Hall.

FAITH FORMATION TODAY @ 11:00

The Bible at 11 o'clock (Curtis Room)

Join us for our study of Isaiah either in person or via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117387186>).

Exploring the Faith (Lewis Room)

Joins First Friends for "Light of the World: Advent."

First Friends (Lewis Room; Zoom option: <https://emich.zoom.us/j/87604338825>)

Amy-Jill Levine video – "Light of the World: Advent." The Meaning of Memory. Discussion of the Visitation by an Angel and of Mary and Elizabeth connecting the Old and New Testaments.

Youth (all middle & high school students, including confirmands) are invited to meet in the Youth Room. After beginning our time together, we'll split off into our separate groups for the rest of our formation time.

Children ages 4 through fifth graders join us for Chapel and lessons beginning in Monteith Hall on the first level. For more information, contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children & Family Ministry (btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

FAITH FORMATION LATER TODAY

Youth Group meets at the church at 6:00 for "The Amazing Race: First Pres Youth Edition!." Contact Rev. Mares for more information (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org).

T2A2 Small Group meets off-site at 7:00 p.m. All in their twenties and thirties are welcome to come and build community with us as we share meaningful conversations and reflect on the Word together. For more information, email t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our November Communion Food Donations and Financial Contributions will be overseen by Campus Ministry. Monetary donations will be sent to Washtenaw Community College Student Emergency Fund which provides food cards to needy students. Donated food will be given to Community Action Network (C.A.N.).

Making God's Love Visible, Peace by Piece Stewardship Update. Thank you to all who have returned your pledge and Opportunity to Serve forms. As of November 15, we have 301 pledges for \$1,142,647, 69.3% of our goal. Every pledge counts. We do expect expenses to rise in unpredictable ways next year. It's not too late to pledge so we can continue to grow the worship, mission and programs of First Pres. Pledge forms are available in the Church Office or online at firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate/stewardship-2022.

Advent Mission Event: Save the Date! Sunday, December 5, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Join us for a First Sunday special intergenerational mission event in our Social Hall with Rise Against Hunger as we pack 10,000+ meals for those in need. Donations are also welcomed to help fund the cost of the meals. Contact Rev. McGowan (emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information and to sign up. Register and / or donate here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchofAnnArbor>.

Help support First Pres as we host the Rotating Shelter, January 3–16, 2022. Up to 25 men will be directed here by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County for overnight shelter. Following Covid guidelines, volunteers are needed as evening hosts (6:30–9:00 p.m.), overnight hosts (8:30 p.m.–7:00 a.m.), and for awake watch-duty shifts (10:00 p.m.–6:00 a.m.). Sign up for the shift(s) that best fit your calendar at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4aa8a62ea3fe3-first>. Donations of pre-packaged food snacks/juice boxes and new warm clothing may be dropped off in the Welcome Center. Financial donations are also welcome by using the following link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/campaign/C-11Q0D>. For more information, contact Jim Peggs (734-646-9412) or Marcey Terrien (480-833-7019).

Our annual Nativity Service has a new date and time this year. It will be on Sunday, December 19, at 11:15 a.m. All children ages 3 and older are invited to participate. Children who are comfortable reading are encouraged to sign up as scripture readers. There are also non-speaking parts for a multitude of children: Star Bearers, Angels, Shepherds and Magi. The parent information meeting is Sunday, December 5, at 10:45 a.m., in our Family Space (room 301). Please sign up to participate using this link: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/nativity-worship-pageant-registration/>.

Poinsettias for Christmas. If you wish to donate a poinsettia to beautify our December 19 and December 24 worship services, the cost is \$20. You can donate in memory or honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be delivered to those in need by our Deacons following those services. Thank you for your donation! Sign up either online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w1w3mdbe1sxyhze/> or in the Main Office. The deadline is Sunday, December 12, at midnight.

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!

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 fall, we are reading *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings* by Amy-Jill Levine. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information at jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340.

Journeys, a Bible Study for women, meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>). Remaining dates this fall are December 2 and December 16. For more details contact Resident Minister and facilitator, Matthew Warfield (mwarfield@firstpresbyterian.org) or Coordinator, Beth Gerwig (bgerwig@comcast.net).

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 (imegbrown@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.

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

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>.

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 today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.

Please contact the Church Office to:

- order a First Pres name tag. Cost is \$9 for either clip or magnet style.
- request a baptism.
- inform us of any changes to your basic contact information.
- let us know if you are hospitalized.
- purchase a bag of Fair Trade coffee (\$12) for use at home to support the PC(USA) Coffee Project.
- sign up to sponsor Chancel Flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. Cost is \$75.



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

Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant

Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator

Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist

Kathy Houser
Technology Coordinator

Diane Knibbs
Administrative Assistant

Anna Miller
Finance Manager

Allie Milot
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Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson
Office Manager

Alyssa Walker
Finance Assistant

195th
ANNIVERSARY

First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor

1826-2021

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