

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 20, 2022 • 8:00 a.m.



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

In Christ Alone

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION

Pastor Nominating Committee

Tom Brandt

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls to us saying, "Incline your ear and come to me. Listen so that you may live."

All: God's love is steadfast and sure. It is with us from generation to generation.

One: We come together today in God's presence to call on the Holy One and draw near.

All: Let us offer our worship and praise!

* HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that do not satisfy us how we need. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires instead. Forgive us when we fall short of your call upon us. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Have mer - cy. Have mer - cy Lord. Have mer - cy.

Have mer - cy Lord. Have mer - cy.

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

In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.

On - ly in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace. In

This is Hymn 814, *In God Alone* (TAIZÉ).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 63:1–8

O God, you are my God. And I am eager to find you.
I'm thirsty for you, just as if I was in the middle of the desert without water.
I have had a glimpse of your power and glory.
Your kindness to me is better than life itself.
And I will tell everyone how wonderful you are.
I will raise my hands above my head and shout your praises.

O God, you are my God. And I am eager to find you.

My soul is happy deep down like I've had a very good meal,
and my lips are happy to talk about you.
I think about you before I go to sleep at night,
and at those times when I wake up.

O God, you are my God. And I am anxious to find you.

You have been my helper all along.
And I can rest under the shadow of your wings.
My soul clings to you and your right hand won't ever let me go.

O God, you are my God. And I am ready to find you.

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 55:1–9

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

SERMON

RESPONDING AND SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Come to the Water

John Foley

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price.
Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price.
Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
All who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
Bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please see the Communion Card.

Communion Music

Sanctuary/Lord, Be Glorified

arr. Fred Bock

SENDING

* **HYMN 696**

O God, You Are My God Alone

GRATUS

* **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

Rain Down

arr. Mark Hayes

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary.

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.



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.

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

Worship Leaders: Liturgist – Melissa Anne Rogers; Scripture Reader – Kathy Hillig; Preacher – Megan Berry; Communion server – Kathy Hillig; Pianist – Eric Banitt; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Chancel Choir Section Leaders

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. Please refer to the website for more information.

Use the 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 include online on our First Pres website, via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523), using our Vanco Mobile app, putting a check in the mail, or scanning the QR code on the right.



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Today's cover art, *Life through the Shadows*, was created by First Pres youth member, Claire Gerhke, and is a reflection of the two scripture passages read in today's service. Commenting on this piece, Claire writes: "You can always find life even in the dry darkness."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

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.

First Pres Name Tags: Order a new name tag with the option to include your personal pronouns, complete the form here: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/zcrbxip0yqf18f/>. The cost is \$9.

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.

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/>.

Did you know we have a First Pres knitting ministry called "Knit Night"? Knit from home or with the group on the first Friday evening of each month. We can teach you! Knit baby blankets or shawls for those recovering, and take on other projects! If you know someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl during a difficult time, please contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

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 (lmegbrown@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).

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.

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. A Resident Minister facilitates the discussion on a rotating basis. Contact Coordinator, Beth Gerwig, at bgerwig@comcast.net for more information.

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
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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)

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First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
1826-2021

1432 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104