

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Baptism Sunday

February 21, 2021



John Baptizes Jesus



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had the
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

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 or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

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.

Cover art: *John Baptizes Jesus*, from "Art in the Christian Tradition," a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. This is a work from JESUS MAFA, a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Adagio in F Minor*

Adolphus Hailstork

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the tide rose, when the wind picked up, when the sky darkened,

All: we longed for the shelter of Your wings, O God.

One: When the time thickened, when the need increased,
when the worry grew,

All: we prayed for Your peace beyond the reach of our understanding.

One: When the path turned toward the wilderness,
when the way forward was unsure,

**All: we stretched our hearts toward Your light,
and listened for Your voice.**

One: Only call us to turn again to You, O God,

All: and we will turn our hearts and mend our lives.

One: We lean on You in hope, in trust, in love –

**All: O Lord, hear our prayers, our praise, our promises,
in the name of Jesus Christ, and all that is sacred to us.**

HYMN 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

This hymn is found on the preceding pages of this bulletin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we are in the habit of counting our losses:
what we have missed, or sacrificed, or suffered.**

We are well-acquainted with the costs of living.

**And while our attention is focused on what we've given up or let go of,
we have failed to notice all that You have given back to us.**

**You have invited us to turn away from self-absorption,
toward new ways of trusting You.**

You have promised us life, and life abundant,

And urged us to use that life in new ways of service to the world.

**We confess that we have been too distracted or discouraged
to receive and embrace what You've promised.**

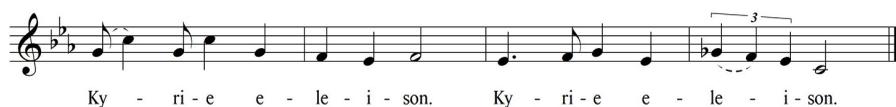
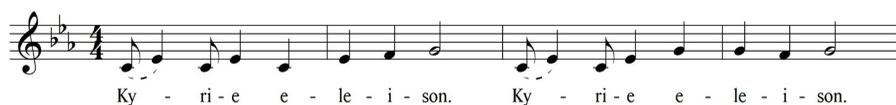
**We have been slow to acknowledge all that You have given,
all that You offer.**

Open us, in these moments of prayer,

to be filled with Your renewing, empowering love in Jesus Christ –

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE



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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 444, Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (DETROIT).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 9:8–17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:9–15

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

Emerging

The Kyrie we sing this morning was written by Dinah Reindorf after a World Council of Churches gathering in Geneva, Switzerland. As a part of their worship, participants in the gathering took a blindfolded “passion walk” as pilgrims meditating on Christ’s journey to the cross. The melody is intended to reflect a pilgrim’s slow walk through Lent. The Greek “Kyrie eleison” is translated as “Lord Have Mercy.”

At First Pres, we strive to use inclusive language for God.

The use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God’s people in scripture. The rediscovery of the complementarity of female and male metaphors in the Bible and the literature of the early church forbids Christians to settle for literary poverty in the midst of literary riches.

RESPONDING AND SEALING

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/2Rliq2l>

HYMN 480

Take Me to the Water

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

A portion of the Sacrament of Baptism will be presented in Spanish. During Covid times, our worship has extended all over the world. The inclusion of Spanish allows us to extend God's love and invitation to God's Table to family in Venezuela as they join us in worship.

The Spanish translation is from the *Book of Common Worship*.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Daniel and Rebeca Torres-Davenport present their daughter Evelia Anna Torres-Davenport, born August 14, 2020, 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

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.



The text for the second stanza of the Offertory is by Richard Spalding.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* Kenneth Dake
 Heidi Hess-Willis, soloist

Jesus walked this lonesome valley,
 he had to walk it by himself.
 Oh, nobody else could walk it for him,
 he had to walk it by himself.

When you walk the vale of shadows,
 fear not the trials waiting there.
 For Jesus himself, he walks beside you
 holding your heart with his in prayer.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (New Zealand)

Our Father in heaven,
 Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 hallowed be your name.
 The hallowing of your name echo through the universe.

The Lord's Prayer is the form of Christian practice that, for many, connects Jesus most directly to his followers. It's included in 3 of the 4 gospels – but with slight differences. It's been translated into countless languages and adapted into the devotions of many cultures. To honor the diversity of the Christian family through time and across cultures (and to remind ourselves that the English words we know so well are not what came out of Jesus's mouth!), we'll be using different versions of the Lord's Prayer each week during Lent. (We'll return to our most familiar version on Easter.)

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In celebration of Black History Month,

the organ voluntaries this morning are by the African-American composer Adolphus Hailstork. Born in Rochester, N.Y., in 1941, he received his doctorate in composition from Michigan State University where he was a student of H. Owen Reed. He also studied with Nadia Boulanger, David Diamond, and Mark Fax. Dr. Hailstork is professor of music at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

Your kingdom come,
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your will be done,
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 On earth as in heaven.
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 Give us today our daily bread.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 Save us from the time of trial
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us,
From trials too great to endure, spare us,
 and deliver us from evil.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

HYMN 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -
 4 A - bid e with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bid e.
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fugue in F Minor

Adolphus Hailstork

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

LENT '21 – GIVEN BACK

Lent is the name we give to our Christian journey through the dark, cold days of winter and the long, long wait for spring. It's a season that can try one's patience and stir one's restlessness. So maybe it's not surprising that the spiritual practices we associate with the season are renunciation and repentance. The mood of austerity seems well-tuned particularly to this year when we've had so much taken from us: it seems like we've already given up a lot as we embark on the pilgrimage of Lent this year.

But...

The journey itself is powered, isn't it, by our being drawn toward a God who fills us – who welcomes us – who believes in us! It's because we long to be closer to God, closer to each other, closer to our best self, that we follow where Jesus leads. Day by day we're being given love, given life, offered a vision of right relationship by the one who says, "Come unto me" – the one who says, "Love one another as I have loved you" – the one who says, "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly."

The Christian journey is not so much about taking stock of what we need to give up – it's about what has been given back! And about what we, in turn, give back.

So Lent at First Pres this year will give us opportunities to consider what we've been given back by the God who calls us forward, onward in spite of the dark and cold and uncertainty and, even, the struggle of our time. And, having been given back a sense of invitation into God's embrace, we'll find that we're motivated, in turn, to give back: to live with compassion, to advocate for justice, to share hope and joy.

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Andrew Frazier; Liturgists – Evans McGowan and Jay Sanderford; Scripture Reader: Nathalie Norman; Children's Message – Beca Torres-Davenport and Mark Mares; Preacher – Rick Spalding; Vocalists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, David Magumba, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler

Join Rev. Sanderford for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary.

Today's conversation prompt: What has been something about past Lenten seasons that you remember has having been particularly meaningful or helpful or valuable? Enter Coffee Hour by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>.

Chancel flowers are given by Molly Dobson in loving memory of her parents, Delia and Laurin Hunter; and by Nancy Fox and her children in honor of their mother and grandmother, Zona Smaltz.

LENT '21 –
GIVEN
BACK

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Flowers to Beautify our Easter Worship

Flowers are \$18 each and may be ordered in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor or recognition of someone still living. All donated flowers will be delivered by our deacons to selected church members who are experiencing health issues, other struggles, or the recent loss of a loved one. Orders may be made online or by contacting the Church Office (662-4466). **All orders must be placed by Thursday, March 25.** The names of those being remembered or honored will appear in the Easter bulletin.

Lenten Study Series: Giving Back Compassion (Sunday, February 21 – Sunday, March 28)

Lent is a season traditionally marked by sacrifice, but after a year that has forced us to sacrifice so much, what if instead we viewed Lent as a season marked by compassion and fullness through personal devotion and study? Drawing from Scripture and Henri Nouwen's *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*, we will take a critical look at ourselves and explore the various ways Jesus is calling us to lives of compassion.

Join us in two different settings: in small groups throughout the week where participants will gather by Zoom and explore compassion in our lives and on Sunday mornings where participants, led by church pastors, will explore the meaning of compassion in our lives and engage in spiritual practices together. For more information and to sign up for a small group, check our website or contact the Church Office.

Lenten Devotionals

We hope you are receiving the daily Lenten email devotional written by our members. If you are not, please sign up online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

A virtual Peeps & Pizza party is March 20. More information is available on our website or by contacting Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry.

More Information Is Coming Soon About These Opportunities:

- **Holy Week Services**
- **Easter Sunday Sanctuary Stroll**



The poster features a purple bag icon with a white treble clef and a fork. Below it, the text reads "lunchbox concerts" in orange and purple, followed by "2021 LENTEN CONCERT SERIES" in orange. A list of events is shown on the left, each with a purple bar indicating the date: ORGAN MUSIC (Feb 24), HARP MUSIC (Mar 3), OBOE MUSIC (Mar 10), STRING QUARTET MUSIC (Mar 17), and VOCAL MUSIC (Mar 24). On the right, it says "ALL ARE WELCOME! WEDNESDAYS FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 24 12:15-12:45 PM Available on YouTube and Facebook". The bottom of the poster shows a top-down view of a lunchbox with an apple, grapes, and carrots, next to a smartphone with a microphone and social media icons.

lunchbox concerts
2021 LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

ORGAN MUSIC
by Paul Haebig
Wednesday, February 24

HARP MUSIC
by Margot Bingham
Wednesday, March 3

OBOE MUSIC
by Yuki Harding
Wednesday, March 10

STRING QUARTET MUSIC
by The Somerset Quartet
Wednesday, March 17

VOCAL MUSIC
by FPC Section Leaders
Wednesday, March 24

ALL ARE WELCOME!
WEDNESDAYS
FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 24
12:15-12:45 PM
Available on YouTube and Facebook

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
John Arner • Matthew

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Care Givers Support Group. Are you currently providing caregiving support for someone you love? Would you be interested in finding a place to join others walking this same road? The First Pres Caregivers Support Group meets every first Monday of the month. Our next virtual gathering will be Monday, March 1, 7:00–8:00 p.m. Please email Stacey Pakela, Parish Nurse, (spakela@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information on this wonderful group!

Reopening Update: View our Reopening Grid on our website. As the COVID-19 vaccines become more readily available, the RRWG recommends consulting with your healthcare professional about getting vaccinated as soon as possible. We are encouraged by the progress being made toward livestreaming our Sunday services, and we are hopeful for a possible indoor service with limited capacity in the near future. Stay tuned for further updates here and on our website. Please contact Rev. McGowan if you have any questions.

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. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m., via Zoom, there are virtual college lunches. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are many available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

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.

Visit our Virtual Art Exhibit “For the Beauty of the Earth” by clicking www.fboe.weebly.com. The photography is by Judy Kisla of Atlanta, Georgia.

Ministry of Music: If you would like to participate in the Chancel Choir’s virtual anthems, contact Dave VanderMeer for more information: dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org. All are welcome to participate!

“Tell Me More” is a monthly opportunity for our guests and visitors to learn more as we “tell you more about First Pres.” The Zoom link is available online or you may indicate on the friendship pad that you’d like to have it sent directly to you. Rev. Rogers leads this brief time of conversation and questions where you can ask anything! Find out about our church, our programs, our vision, our time of transition, our theology, history, and more on the fourth Sunday of each month at noon!

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.

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of February will be overseen by Youth Ministry. Financial donations will be sent to the Washtenaw Community College Student Emergency Fund. Food donations will be taken to Community Action Network (C.A.N.). If you are donating by check, please make it payable to First Presbyterian Church, noting the recipient of your contribution on the memo line. Checks may be dropped off at church Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or mailed to the church to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller. Bins for food collection are provided outside the church entrance at the Memorial Garden Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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.

The next Taizé Prayer Service is on Tuesday, March 2. Join us at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<https://emich.zoom.us/j/81429993076>) to discuss African American Spirituals.

Exploring the Faith meets today at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>) for a discussion on "Compassionate God" led by Rev. Sanderford. Each week during Lent a pastor will explore the meaning of compassion in our lives as part of our Lenten studies.

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.

The Children's Choir meets virtually on Sundays, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate.

All children's faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. The Story Bible and curriculum materials are available from the church.

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.

All youth faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. When you log on, please make sure Zoom names are updated to reflect each youth present and what class you will be participating in (Middle/High/Confirmation). **Our Confirmation Class** meets on Zoom the second and third Sunday of each month, and in person for the fourth Sunday.

High School students meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events as we take time thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith forms us in our everyday lives.

Middle School and High School Youth Group gatherings alternate between in-person (first and third Sundays) and virtual (second and fourth Sundays) of each month. We gather together for games and fellowship as a large group and break out into Middle School and High School groups for conversations. Contact Pastor Mark for more information. All are welcome!

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

Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

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

Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim 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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