



"Love Is the Most Ancient Law" by Jan Richardson

SIXTH SUNDAY *after* EPIPHANY

February 12, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.

As we enter a holy space and time this morning, please silence all electronic devices. The opening voluntary is the call to silent meditation.

* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten, BWV 647 J.S. Bach
(Whoever solely lets our dear God reign)

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy Wisdom gathers us together with tenderness and care.
With gentleness, she calls us into the dwelling place of God.

Our pain, our fears, and all our unmet longings —
they are safe in her embrace.
In the company of God, we tend honestly to the state of our souls.

In the depths of our being, she dwells with her healing love.
In due time, God mends the broken heart.

The beloved One says, “come.”
Let all who long for restoration bring every ache and ill.

* HYMN 32 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ELLACOMBE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we bow before other gods; we have turned
our hearts away from you. Our worship of work and devotion to
consumerism hurts our love for you and one another. Forgive us,
God, and mend what is broken in our world so we can fully embrace
your love...**

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE GHANA

The Children’s Choir will sing the Kyrie first followed by the congregation.

Musical notation for the Kyrie, featuring two staves with lyrics: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - - cy.

The **Call to Worship**
is from *enfleshed*

The **Prayer of
Confession** is from
*Feasting on the
Word: Worship
Companion*

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

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 119:1-8

LAND OF REST

J. Michael Morgan

How blessed are they whose path is pure, who keep God's Law a - right; and
The Lord com - mands that ho - ly Law should be our con - stant guide; and
O may we ev - er stead - fast be in liv - ing out God's will; whose

hap - py they who by true faith find fa - vor in God's sight.
those who bow to God's de - cree shall not be cast a - side.
Law, our coun - sel will re - main; whose love, our com - fort still.

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Please join in singing the refrain of Hymn 591, Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!, as the children come forward.

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:21-37

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

SERMON

The Metrical Psalm sung at the first scripture reading this morning is from *Psalter for Christian Worship* by J. Michael Morgan. Michael was a former organist/colleague of Dave VanderMeer's in Atlanta, GA. Michael's memorial service was yesterday at Central Presbyterian Church.

This week's Growing in God's Love Bible story, *The Sower* is found on page 210.

The musical transition following the first scripture reading invites all ages to be active participants while signaling to children an important moment in worship focused toward them.

Worship LAB is a place where children explore the flow of worship through multi-sensory experiences. Children age 5 through 5th grade are invited to join in Worship Lab each week. This week's LAB focuses on Confessions.

Ways to give:
Cash/Check

Place in the offering
plate or in the mail

Text-to-Give

Text the amount you
would like to give to
855-904-1523

Online

<https://bit.ly/FPCvanco>

Vanco Mobile App



Please sign and
pass the **Friendship
Pad**. First-time-
guests, we especially
appreciate your
contact information,
legibly written, so we
can give you a fuller
welcome this week.

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the Most Ancient
Law" by Jan
Richardson

RESPONDING

* **HYMN 816** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN
LIEBEN GOTT

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Let All Who Pray
Chancel Choir

arr. John Ferguson
Text: Thomas Troeger

Let all who pray the prayer Christ taught first clear the cluttered heart.
Make room to breathe the living thought those well-worn words impart.

Dismiss the feat that this world drifts with no one in command.
Your pulse and breath are gifts from God's hand.

Refine and test each passing aim against this final one,
Has your life hallowed heaven's name? And has God's will been done?

Discard each vengeful hope that's fed the dreams of wars you'll win.
Then ask for daily bread and pardon from your sin.

Examine how temptation breeds inside the mind's dark maze,
Acknowledging that your life needs deliverance from its ways.

By faithful discipline prepare an inward holy space
That when you offer Jesus' prayer, Your heart may fill with grace.

* **Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* **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 757** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

KINGSFOLD

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan
(What God Ordains Is Always Good)

Johann Kellner



WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive and diverse faith community, led by the Holy Spirit, who welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to explore, nurture, and deepen their faith.

PRAYER

If you would like someone to pray with you, drop in Hillegonds Chapel after the service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer. Today’s prayer partners are Beth Gerwig and Michele Derr.

GET CONNECTED

Please use the Friendship Pad located in the pew to let us know you joined us in worship. To stay up to date with what’s happening at First Pres, sign up for our weekly email “Our Life Together” using this QR code.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to Worship LAB — a multi-sensory worship experience just for them.

Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger on the First Level from 9 a.m. to noon. Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship. We encourage you to pick up a worship activity bag, try sitting near the front, and sing along with the music.

WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Conductor</i>	<i>Ushers</i>
David Prentice-Hyers	Shayla Powell	Callie Crawford
<i>Welcome & Children’s Message</i>	Chancel Choir	Beth Gerwig
Hannah Lundberg	Children’s Choir	Greta Krapohl
<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Welcome Center</i>	Jenna Mares
Jay Sanderford	Debbie Swartz	Chloe Majorprice
<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	Aidan Majorprice
David Keil	Michele Madden	Carol Smith
<i>Organist</i>	Nancy Oliver	Paul Smith
David Hufford		Angela Yang

*The chancel flowers are given
in loving memory of Peg Molin by her husband Keith
and
in loving memory of Robert W. Fletcher
by his wife Carol and family on the anniversary of his death on February 12, 2018*

Today at First

Children’s Choir

10:45 a.m. | Lemon Chapel (Level 3)

Youth Classes

11:00 a.m. | LL4, LL1 (Lower Level)

First Friends

Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

11:00 a.m. | Lewis Room (Level 2)

The Bible at 11 o’clock

2 Corinthians

11:00 a.m. | French Room (Level 1)

Exploring the Faith

Refugee Resettlement

11:00 a.m. | Monteith Hall (Level 1)

Kerygma Bible Study

11:00 a.m. | Vance Room (Level 2)

Fast Track to Membership

11:00 a.m. | Lead Pastor’s Office (Level 2)

Children’s Classes

11:15 a.m. | Level 3

Youth Group

12:00 p.m. | Social Hall

4th & 5th Grade & Parents

Amazing Stuff: God’s Plan for Growing Up

4:30 p.m. | Curtis Room, LL4

T2A2 Young Adults

Contact: hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org

News & Events

Annual Meeting of the Congregation — The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, February 26, following 9:30 a.m. worship for the purpose of approving the pastors’ terms of call and receiving the 2022 annual report and the 2023 annual budget. There will be a potluck lunch where the main course will be provided. Please bring your favorite cold side dish to share.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance — As we watch the images and receive news about the aftermath of the earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border, we invite you to join us in prayer for all the communities impacted by this disaster. PDA has already reached out to partners in the areas affected by the earthquakes and will be providing initial grants to attend to immediate unmet needs. To support the response, visit firstpresbyterian.org/mission/presbyterian-disaster-assistance.

Social Hour Hosts Needed — We are looking for folks who will help put cookies on trays and on tables in the Social Hall before Social Hour (usually on the last hymn) — and help us at the end to put the cookie trays in the kitchen to be washed by staff the next day. All the cookies are in the kitchen by 9:15. Directions are given, and it’s the easiest way to help on Sunday! Can you help? Sign up! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-coffee#/>

Art Exhibit: The Artwork of John Onye Lockard — The founding faculty member of the Department of Afro-American and African Studies at UM, John Onye Lockard had a career that spanned more than a half-century of painting, teaching, mentoring, and exhibiting. On loan from the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County the exhibit of John Onye Lockard’s work is on view in the Social Hall January through March.



Embracing Hope **Information Sessions**

Over the course of several years, the Session of First Pres has participated in a strategic visioning process asking, who is God calling us to be in our third century? Last March a capital campaign steering committee was formed to lay the groundwork to bring this vision to life.

During the month of February, our entire church community will engage in a collective process to imagine our future and chart the course ahead. Your feedback is important. You will have multiple opportunities to engage in the process through in-person and online informational gatherings. We encourage you to attend one meeting at a time your schedule allows. The meeting will last one hour, and you will have a short questionnaire to fill out at the end.

This week informational gatherings will be held

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

11:00 am - 12:00 p.m. | Curtis Room

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Lewis Room & Zoom

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89196426148>

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Curtis Room & Zoom

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89196426148>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Lewis Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Lewis Room

For the complete schedule of information sessions, visit **firstpresbyterian.org**.

lent

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2023

Begin the season of Lent by joining us for worship and the imposition of ashes.

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. & 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Drive-through Imposition of Ashes

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Walk-through Imposition of Ashes on the Diag of U of M

5:30 p.m. Family Service
7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Taizé

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Tuesday, March 7
7:00 p.m.

We invite you to come experience a beautiful form of prayer, inspired by the ecumenical community in Taizé, France.

HOME WORSHIP GATHERINGS

Tuesdays, March 14 - 28
6:00 p.m.

Simple worship gatherings will be held in various homes throughout the season of Lent. Limited to 25 people per gathering. Sign up online at firstpresbyterian.org

PEEPS & PIZZA

Saturday, April 8
10:00 a.m.

Create a Bible story diorama using marshmallow Peeps. Then, an outdoor pizza lunch and children's egg hunt will be held on the front lawn. Lunch is a suggested \$5 per person donation. We will proudly display the dioramas in the Social Hall on Easter Sunday. Register online at firstpresbyterian.org

ALPHA HOUSE WEEK OF CARING

March 20 - 27

During the week of March 20, volunteer to support guests of Alpha House, a shelter for children and parents. To volunteer, visit firstpresbyterian.org.

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, March 6 - April 10
8:00 a.m. | Monteith Hall
9:30 a.m. | Sanctuary & Livestream

Join us throughout Lent for a time of prayer and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter.

LENTEN EMAIL DEVOTIONAL

Begin each day with a Lenten devotion written by church members and staff. To receive the email devotion, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

LENTEN WEEKLY WALKS

Wednesday, March 1
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Gallup Park

Tuesday, March 7
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
The Arboretum (meet at First Pres)

Thursday, March 16
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Bird Hills

Friday, March 24
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Dhu Varren Woods

Saturday, April 1
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Hudson Mills

Friday, April 7 (Good Friday)
12:00 p.m.
The Arboretum (meet at First Pres)

All ages and stages of life welcome. A pastoral liaison will guide the group. Sign up at firstpresbyterian.org.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sundays, April 2 & 9

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. To give, visit firstpresbyterian.org.