



"Living Water" by Lauren Wright Pittman

Please speak with
an usher if you
would like to use a
**large-print
bulletin** to follow
the service.

THIRD SUNDAY *in* LENT

March 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 *The Lamb* Sandra Eithun
 Sanctus Ringers

POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all who yearn for connection,
all who hunger for justice and thirst for bodily renewal
come and be replenished.

With hope and expectation, we bring all that our souls desire.

Let everyone weary from isolation
or overwhelmed by life's troubles
come and find rest in God's care.

All those who come seeking community are received in Holy Embrace.

May the presence and provision of God be manifest among us
that all may have what they need.

We come to give, we come to receive, we come to grow in love.

* **HYMN 386** *Come, Worship God* O QUANTA QUALIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Living Water, you call us to come and drink.
So why do we sit here and complain that there is not enough water?
You call us to strike the rocks of our world and let your Living Water
flow.

But we do not trust enough that the spring is there.

We want to find the water on our own, using our own wisdom.

You call us to share the Water of Life with the world around us.

**But we believe that the water is limited,
not abundant and so we are tempted to save it for ourselves.**

For all the times we turn away from your Water,
for all the times we sully the Water by misusing it,
for all the times we let others go thirsty instead of offering a drink,
Forgive us we pray ...

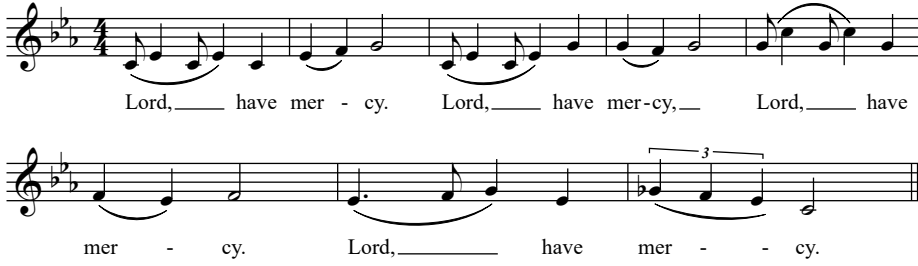
The **Call to
Worship** is from
enfleshed.

The **Prayer of
Confession** was
written by Rev.
Gord Waldie.

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

GHANA



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, 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

DETROIT



"For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

PROCLAIMING *the* WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 95

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

CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Please join in singing the refrain of Hymn 20, All Things Bright and Beautiful, as the children come forward.

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Selected verses from John 4

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

SERMON

This week's Growing in God's Love Bible story, *The Pearl*, is found on page 228.

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 the offering.

The second scripture reading this morning will be in the form of a tableau.

RESPONDING

*HYMN 161

Woman in the Night

NEW DISCIPLES

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* arr. Zebulon Highben
Chancel Choir and Yuki Harding, oboe

“Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live.”

(Refrain)

Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer, there is joy no tongue can tell.

“Come to me, all travelers weary; come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest.” (Refrain)

“Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face.” (Refrain)

“Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name.”
(Refrain)

“Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend. (Refrain)

“Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer; let me make in you my home.” (Refrain)

*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.**

* Prayer of Dedication

PRAYER 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 echos through the universe.

Your kingdom come,

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your will be done,

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



During the season of Lent we will say or sing various versions of the **Lord’s Prayer**. Today’s prayer is from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

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 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in e Minor, BWV 533

J. S. Bach



The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Emily Ann Andrea.

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Cover art: "Living Water" by Lauren Wright Pittman

We are glad you are here!

First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive and diverse faith community, led by the Holy Spirit, which 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 by Hillegonds Chapel after the service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer. Today's prayer partner is Virginia Rezmierski.

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 held during 9:30 a.m. worship. Children are dismissed after the Conversation with Young Disciples and return to the Sanctuary before the worship service concludes.

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

Preacher

David Prentice-Hyers

Welcome

Jay Sanderford

Liturgists

Melissa Anne Rogers

Megan Berry

Conversations with

Young Disciples

Hannah Lundberg

Lector

Ankie Schuitema

Tableau

Reader: Brent Ivey

Jesus: Tyrese Byrd

Samaritan Woman:

Lindsey Gudritz

Three Disciples:

Randall Nicholls

Owen Smith

Nick Music

Townpeople:

Carolyn Gehrke

Anna Gehrke

Jenny Rhodes

Sandra McDonald

Ankie Schuitema

Organist

David Hufford

Conductor

David VanderMeer

Chancel Choir

Sanctus Ringers

Ushers

Jim Cameron

Dick Carlisle

Carol Carter

Spaulding Clark

Joe Schmidt

Martin Swindle

Connie Swindle

Today at First

- 8:00 a.m. Worship (Monteith Hall)
9:00 a.m. Residency Program Interview Weekend
9:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Social Hall)
10:40 a.m. Prayer Team (Hillegonds Chapel)
10:45 a.m. Children's Choir (Lemon Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Communion Milestone Workshop (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m. Faith Formation: Youth (Lower Level)
11:00 a.m. Fast Track to Membership (Pastor's Study)
11:00 a.m. First Friends (Lewis Room)
11:00 a.m. The Bible at 11 o'clock (French Room, Zoom 4)
11:15 a.m. Faith Formation: Children (Levels 1 & 3)
12:00 p.m. UKirk@UMich College Lunch | off site
 Contact: Rev. Hannah Lundberg, hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org
6:00 p.m. All-Church Game Night (Social Hall)
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Fast Track to Membership — Join us today at 11:00 a.m. in the Lead Pastor's office (Level 2) for a 30-minute session where we get to know you and you get to know us. Registration is not required. Questions? Contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at 734-904-0049 or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

TONIGHT! All-Church Game Night
Join us tonight from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the church-wide game night in the Social Hall. We'll gather for tabletop games, food, and fun. Come enjoy a time of fellowship.

COVER ARTWORK

"Living Water" by Lauren Wright Pittman

Artist's Statement

In my piece, the positioning of Jesus and the Samaritan woman is inspired by the work of Karoline M. Lewis in her commentary on John. She focuses on their "mutuality of need."¹ Jesus needs water to drink, and the woman needs living water. She writes: "Jesus needs her to be a witness, and she needs Jesus to invite her into this new identity."²

In this image, their body positioning is mirrored, with their eyes on the same plane. Where their arms overlap becomes a vibrant blue, creating a water drop with a dove in it, representing the living water that springs forth from their mutual need and relationship.

The image is subtly divided in half by slight shifts in color value. There is a chasm between them socially, culturally, religiously, etc. Referencing a primary dispute between the Jews and the Samaritans, their places of worship are in the background: on the left is the temple in Jerusalem, and on the right is Mount Gerizim.

In the center is the Samaritan woman's vessel. We are not told whether she fills the jar or gives Jesus water, however, we are told that she leaves the jar behind. Her need is not the water in the well; her need is for grounding in a new identity.³ She needs to not be defined by the worst parts of her life, but to be seen through the lens of mutual need—to be seen as one of the first witnesses of the Messiah,⁴ and now a vessel of living water herself.

¹Lewis, Karoline M. John: Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2014). 55.

²Ibid. 56. ³Ibid. 56. ⁴Ibid. 60.

News & Events

AGO Spring Fine Arts Series — Fridays, March 10 - 31 | Noon

First Presbyterian is pleased to host the American Guild of Organists Spring Fine Arts Series. Join us at noon for four Fridays in March with performances by local musicians, including our own David Hufford. For more information, visit firstpresbyterian.org.

Dementia: Understanding Changes in Communication and Family Dynamics — Monday, March 13 | 7:00 p.m. As part of the Stephen Ministry Continuing Education program, Stefanie Sinks, LMSW, a geriatric care manager and aging life professional, will discuss how changes in cognition impact communication and discuss effective tips and techniques for positive interactions. She will also address the changes in roles and relationships, and how these changes impact family dynamics. Join us in person or live stream in Monteith Hall.

Home Worship Gatherings — Tuesdays, March 14 - 28 | 6:00 p.m.

Simple worship gatherings will be held in various homes on Tuesdays, March 14 - 28, at 6:00 p.m. Up to 25 people will gather and have a light supper followed by worship, led by our pastors. Sign up online at firstpresbyterian.org.

New Member Class — Sunday, March 19 | 4:00 p.m.

For those who desire to join the church, our new member class is next Sunday at 4 p.m. at the home of Marti and Tim Wendler. The class begins with light refreshments, introductions by pastors and fellow attendees, information about the life and ministry of our vibrant community of faith and concludes by answering any questions of membership. Interested? Contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at 734-904-0049 or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

Alpha House Week of Caring — Week of March 20

Alpha House provides shelter and support for children and families experiencing homelessness. Join us the week of March 20 to provide meals, childcare, companionship, and help with homework at Alpha House. For more information, contact Anne Gere, argere@umich.edu, or Ruth Jensen, ruthannjensen@gmail.com

Mature Ministries Spring Trip to Detroit — Thursday, March 30

Mark your calendar for a visit to Detroit's Motown Museum. The fun will begin earlier in the day with a long-awaited stop at Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum in West Bloomfield. Marvin's boasts a wonderful collection of classic and antique arcade games, pinball machines, and pre-electronic forms of entertainment. Bring a handful of quarters. Lunch will be at the Stage Deli. Sign up online at firstpresbyterian.org/mature-ministries.

Easter Flowers — Give Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones. Your flowers will be used to beautify our worship spaces on Easter Sunday, April 9. Following Easter worship, flowers will be delivered by our Deacons to those in need of extra cheer. Flowers are \$20 each and may be ordered up until noon on Monday, April 4. Order online at firstpresbyterian.org.