

FIFTH SUNDAY *in* LENT  
March 17, 2024 • 9:30 AM

*The Season of Lent*  
THIRSTING  
*for* JUSTICE

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

1432 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
[firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)

In the season of Lent, we journey together with contemplation and somber reflection toward the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Our 2024 Lent theme is "Thirsting for Justice," based on the text of the Kyrie that we will sing together, written by Mary Louise Bringle with music by Sally Ann Morris. In this season, we will reflect on the many places in our world where justice is needed, trusting in God's presence and committing to do our part to be agents of justice, love, and peace in the world.

## FIFTH SUNDAY *in* LENT

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

### GATHERING

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Be Thou My Vision*  
FPC Orchestra

arr. Jeff Cranfill

#### POURING OF THE WATER

#### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

#### FAITH IN ACTION

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

God, You desire clarity of purpose in our inward beings  
**Guide us towards Inner Wisdom. Unite us in solidarity.**

Bless us with fragrant Grace and uphold us in our ancestor's prayers,  
**bath us in Love, let the runoff water our gardens.**

Bones that have been crushed by ego, avarice, and hatred—  
**Set them! Heal them!—that there may be rejoicing!**

Put the right spirit within the hearts of the souls lost.  
**Restore us to the joy of mutual thriving**

and sustain our spirits with steadfast determination.  
**Accompany us today according to your abundant mercy.**

Your people gather in worship, seeking courage and hope.

\* HYMN 436    *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*    O QUANTA  
QUALIA

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Spirit of Truth, Midwifing God—we confess our shortcomings. We have let fear guide the way. We have hidden from what courage asks of us. We have leaned into patterns of comfort and stunted our imaginations, following paths laid out by resignation and cynicism.**

**Lead us to the root of our spiritual frailty, Compassionate One. Guide us not with shame but tenderness. We grieve the faithful ways we could not be, though we longed to be them—generous, open-hearted, steadfast, courageous.**

**Forgive us. Bloom in us brighter ways of being, that all beings may flourish....**

#### SILENT PRAYER

## KYRIE



Stacie Barrett, Jillian Hopper, and Sean Hoskins, Liturgical Dancers  
Abby Kasenow, Cantor

Where are those who thirst for justice?  
Where are those who yearn for peace?  
Why must fear and hatred bind us?  
When will captives find release?  
Make us ones who thirst for justice.  
Make us ones who work for peace.  
Help untie the fears that bind us.  
Grant our captive hearts release.

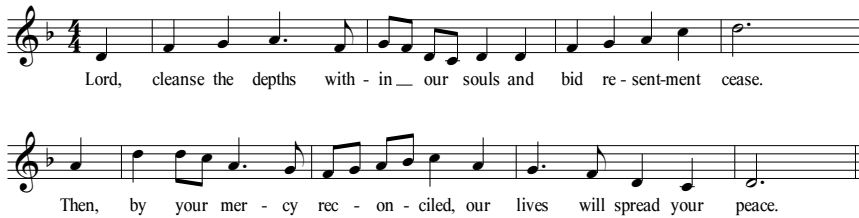
## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### \* 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



## PROCLAIMING *the* WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:1-2, 6-12

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Please join in singing as the children come forward.*

**We are marching in the light of God;**  
**we are marching in the light of God.**  
**We are marching in the light of God;**  
**we are marching in the light of God.**

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:20-33

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

### SERMON

Each week during Lent a new piece of fabric will hang from the beam to mark the Sundays during the season. The fabrics range from a dark purple to almost white. Thank you to the Liturgical/Visual Arts Workgroup for creating these fabric pieces.

Elementary-age children may attend Faith Formation classes on the Third Level following the Conversations with Young Disciples. Children are dismissed from their classrooms at the end of worship.

**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**

[firstpresbyterian/  
contribute](https://firstpresbyterian/contribute)

**Vanco Mobile App**



## RESPONDING

\* HYMN 421 *Have Mercy, God, upon My Life* IRISH

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Jesus, So Lowly* Harold Friedell  
Chancel Choir

Jesus, so lowly, child of the earth;  
Christen me wholly, bring me new birth.

Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad;  
Teach me that only love maketh glad.

Jesus, so broken, silent and pale;  
Be this the token love will not fail.

Jesus, victorious, mighty and free;  
Teach me how glorious death is to be.

\* 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

### 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 434 *Restore in Us, O God* BAYLOR

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY arr. Jeff Cranfill  
*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*



*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and  
in memory of Larry and Magdaline Ouimet by Mark Ouimet; and  
in memory of Bob Snyder by Michele Snyder-Madden and their children  
Derek, Matthew, and Jessica.*

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# WELCOME

## We Are Glad You Are Here!

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us.

While you are with us today, we would love for you to do two things:

1. **Sign the Friendship Pad.** The pads are located at the end of each pew. Sign it then pass it down to others.
2. **Join us following worship for Social Hour.** There will be cookies and coffee and lots of friendly faces.

## Fast Track to Membership

Join our Fast Track class today at 11 AM in the Pastor's Study where you can meet others, get to know our pastors, ask questions, and join the church. It's that simple.

## Children in Worship

Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship. Elementary-age children may attend Faith Formation classes on the Third Level following the Conversations with Young Disciples. Children 2nd grade and older will be independently dismissed from their classrooms at the conclusion of worship. Children in 1st grade or younger will remain in their classrooms and must be picked up by an adult.

## Parking

Additional parking is located at the Forest Avenue parking structure located on South Forest Avenue between South University and Willard.

## Worship Leaders

David Prentice-Hyers  
Nathaniel Fryer  
Hannah Lundberg  
Mark Mares

### *Musicians*

Chancel Choir  
FPC Orchestra  
David Hufford, Organist  
Richard Ingram, Guest Conductor  
Michael Haithcock, FPC Orchestra Conductor

### *Faith in Action*

Jeff Taggart

### *Prayer Partners*

Nancy Fox  
Ellen Johnson

### *Lay Readers*

Daniel Forger

### *Ushers*

Keith Bilby  
Sheila Bilby  
Jim Cameron  
Carol Carter  
Spaulding Clark  
Angela Yang

## SUNDAY OFFERINGS

8:30 AM

**Contemplative  
Communion  
Service**  
Monteith Hall

9:30 AM

**Worship**  
Sanctuary &  
Livestream

9:30 AM

**Children &  
Youth Faith  
Formation**

10:30 AM

**Social Hour**  
Social Hall

10:45 AM

**Lemon Chapel  
Singers**  
Lemon Chapel

11:00 AM

**Adult Faith  
Formation**  
Classrooms

11:00 AM

**Fast Track to  
Membership**  
Pastor's Study

11:15 AM

**Worship**  
Monteith Hall

4:00 PM

**Lenten Walk**  
Pittsfield  
Reserve Park

7:00 PM

**Small Group  
Bible Study**  
offsite

## TODAY AT FIRST

### CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

#### **Kindergarten & First Grade**

9:30 AM | Room 302

Children learn the Bible through a story-based curriculum. This week, they'll learn the story of "Jesus is King."

#### **Second & Third Grade**

9:30 AM | Room 303

#### **Fourth & Fifth Grade**

9:30 AM | Room 304

Our 2nd-5th graders are studying "Last Things," a unit on the events of Holy Week. Our lesson this week is "Jesus Dies."

#### **Middle School Youth (6th - 8th Grade)**

9:30 AM | Lower Level

Students use the same scripture passages used in worship to explore how they might speak to us in our lives today. There will be art, games, and donuts.

#### **Confirmation (8th Grade)**

9:30 AM | Youth Room

Throughout the confirmation journey, students practice writing and imagining their way through different questions of faith, history, theology, the Bible, and work to see how their own stories intersect with these questions.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

EXPLORING THE FAITH

#### **How Do We Talk About... A Big Questions Series**

11:00 AM | Lewis Room

In the third of a four-part series of exploring big questions, Sidonie Smith will lead us in "Speaking of Suffering." In a workshop environment, we will ponder the troubling issue of God's relationship to human suffering. How do we hold together in our belief and in our hearts the notion of an omnipotent, beneficent God and the ceaseless suffering of humankind and of the rest of the natural world? The class will be live streamed and recorded.

BIBLE AT 11 O'CLOCK

#### **New Testament: Epistles of Peter**

11:00 AM | French Room & Zoom

Host: Ed Koster

FIRST FRIENDS

#### **Karl Barth**

11:00 AM | Curtis Room & Zoom

Host: Carole Pawloski

First Pres member Keanu Heydari leads this three-part series on Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth.

#### **Small Group Bible Study**

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Open to all. Come join us as we ask the big questions about religion, how the Bible stories impact life now, and if Moses should have been locked up for a murder cover up. Contact Chris Wahl, cgwahl@umich.edu, for more information.

## THE SEASON OF LENT

### **Lenten Home Worship**

Tuesday, March 19

6:00 PM

Join us this Tuesday for our last Home Worship of Lent. There will be a time of fellowship, a simple meal and a brief worship service in members' homes. Sign up at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)

### **Lenten Walk**

Friday, March 22

11 AM | Lillie Park

Our last Lenten Walk will be Friday, March 22. All ages and stages of life are welcome. A pastoral liaison will guide the group.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN

### **Peeps & Pizza is coming!**

Our annual Easter celebration is happening Saturday, March 30, from 10AM to noon. Everyone can create their own artistic masterpiece of a Bible story using Peeps, a shoe box and craft supplies. Afterward we'll have an egg hunt on the lawn for kids and then enjoy pizza together.

**To Attend:** Please help us know how much pizza to plan for by RSVPing online at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org). A \$5 per person/\$20 per family donation is suggested to help with pizza costs.

**To Help:** Your help makes our children's programs possible! Volunteer to donate items needed or your time.

**Volunteer Signup:** <https://rb.gy/kzek9e>

## YOUNG ADULTS

### **Kickoff Boardgame Night**

Sunday, March 24  
6-7:30 PM | Vance Room

Future boardgame nights will be every 4th Sunday of the month, same time and same place.

### **Pub Theology**

2nd Tuesday of the month  
starting on Tuesday, April 9  
5:30-6:30 PM | Location TBD

Young adults are invited to share thoughts on life and faith, over a pint. For more information, contact Tommy Langejans, [tlangejans@fpca2.org](mailto:tlangejans@fpca2.org)

### **Coffee & Conversation**

3rd Sunday of the month  
starting on Sunday, April 21  
11 AM | Panera Bread (Washtenaw Ave.)

Young adults are invited to meet at the Panera Bread on Washtenaw from 11 AM-12 PM for coffee and conversation.

## MISSION

### **Food Collection in March**

Throughout the month of March we are collecting food pantry items for SOS Community Services of Washtenaw County. Financial gifts may be made by check or online.

### **Alpha House Host Week**

March 18 - 24

Volunteer with local mission partner Alpha House during our Host Week, March 18-24. Alpha House provides shelter and support to children and families experiencing homelessness in our community. There are signups for providing a dinner main dish, side dishes, Sat/Sun brunch, and assisting with activity hour. Sign up at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).

### **Habitat for Humanity Build**

March 23; April 6, 13, & 27  
9 AM to 3 PM

Join us in renovating a Habitat for Humanity house in Ypsilanti this spring! First Presbyterian and the House of Faith partner churches are looking for volunteers on the following Saturdays: March 23, April 6, April 13 and April 27 from 9 AM to 3 PM. There are also opportunities to provide lunch on two of those days. Sign up online, [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).

## MUSIC & FINE ARTS

### **Summer Camp**

July 29 - August 2  
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Hey, kids! Join us for a week of non-stop fun this summer. The cost is \$75 per camper. Register online at [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).

## WORSHIP

### **Last Chance!**

### **Order Easter Flowers**

Give Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones. Following Easter worship, flowers will be delivered by our Deacons to those in need of extra cheer. Flowers are \$20 each. **Order deadline is Monday, March 18.** Order online, [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).



# CELEBRATE Easter

Worship with us during this holy season



MARCH 24, 2024

## **PALM SUNDAY**

8:30, 9:30, & 11:15 AM Worship



MARCH 29, 2024

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

7:00 PM Worship



MARCH 28, 2024

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7:00 PM Worship



MARCH 30, 2024

## **PEEPS & PIZZA EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

10:00 AM



MARCH 31, 2024

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

**7 AM SUNRISE SERVICE**  
Circle Terrace

**9:30 & 11:15 AM SERVICE**  
Sanctuary  
livestream at 9:30 AM

Pre-service music will begin 15 minutes before the 9:30 and 11:15 AM services.  
Overflow seating will be available in Monteith Hall.

You are invited to bring fresh flowers to place on the Easter cross  
that will be located outside the front Sanctuary doors.