



First  
Presbyterian  
Church *of Ann Arbor*



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 2024

8:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship



8:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

# Seventeenth Sunday *after Pentecost*

---

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

## GATHERING

### Opening Prayer

The morning stars profess God's glory:

**the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.**

The sun warms us with God's hope,

**the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:**

**creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts,**

**reminding us of God's steadfast love.**

Our wisdom is shattered by God's absurd love;

God's vulnerability strengthens our feeble faith:

**God's words place joy in our hearts;**

**we follow them to peace and hope.**

### Centering Prayer

## PROCLAMATION

### Scripture Reading

Psalm 19:1-14

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming God's handiwork.

One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known. Of course, there's no speech, no words— their voices can't be heard— but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth. God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.

**The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite;  
like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.**

**It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other.**

**Nothing escapes its heat.**

**The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.**

**The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.**

**The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.**

**The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.**

**Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever.**

**The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!**

They are more desirable than gold— than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey— even dripping off the honeycomb! No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them. But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me. Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

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

Song of Reflection

*Psalm 19*

by Jess Ray

Reflection

Sacrament of the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest,**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus taught us to say, praying:

**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.**

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

... God of grace, thank you for meeting us here at this table – filling us with your grace and love.

**Sustain us as we go from this moment, that we might share your grace and love, wherever we go. Amen.**

## SENDING

Closing Sentences

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Bless the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

Go in peace.

*Share a sign of peace with one another.*



9:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

# Seventeenth Sunday *after Pentecost*

---

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

## GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

*Elegy*

George Thalben-Ball

Cary Dumas, Guest Organist

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Faith in Action

\* Call to Worship

We come here today not because we are clever

**but because God welcomes the slow learners.**

We come here not because we are wise,

**but because God loves us in spite of our folly.**

We come knowing that the greatest persons will be found

**among those who humbly serve like Jesus did,**

and that the brightest ideas and the deepest truth will come

**from those who see themselves as little children in Christ's school.**

O Lord, open up our mind and our hearts

**and enable our lives to declare your praise.**

\* Hymn 157

*I Danced in the Morning*

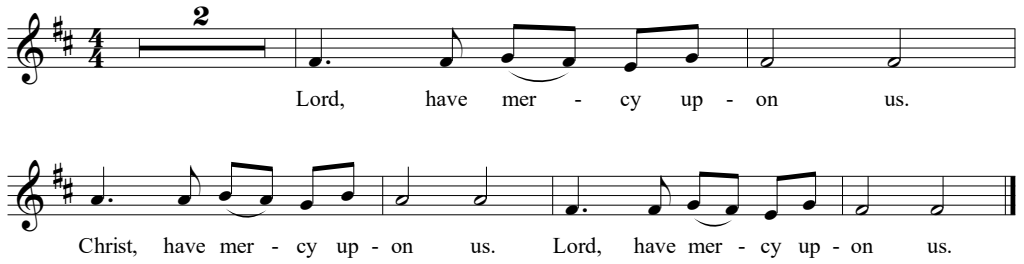
LORD OF THE DANCE

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God who calls and compels us to follow, we admit to you that though we try, we fail. Turning away from you outstretched hands of grace, we stumble into the arms of the world. We speak hurtful gossip and fire off words we can't take back. We fail to find words which uplift others and point to you. Give us silence with which to witness your wonders; give us words to proclaim Jesus is the Christ, our Lord and our Savior, the One who leads us to life....**

Silent Prayer



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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

NETTLETON

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!  
 Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
 here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

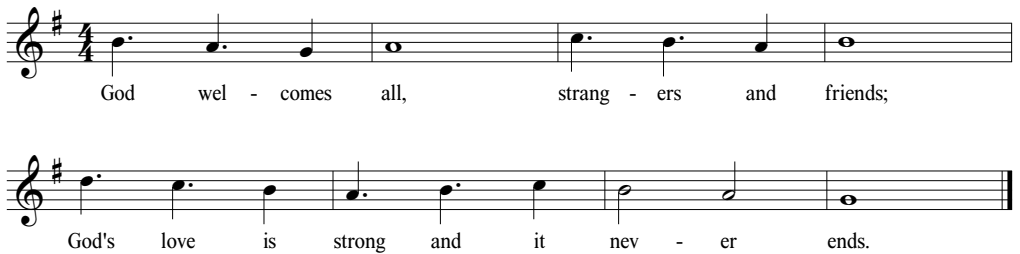
First Scripture Reading

Mark 8:27-38

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

A Conversation with Young Disciples

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



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;  
 God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

Second Scripture Reading

James 3:1-12

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

Sermon

## RESPONDING

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts

#### Offertory

*Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

arr. Howard Helvey

Chancel Choir

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart, and nerve  
your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still;  
The Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and calmly every danger brave;  
It guides you to abundant life and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

#### \* 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 815

*Give to the Winds Thy Fears*

FESTAL SONG

#### \* Charge and Benediction

#### Closing Voluntary

*Prelude in C Major, op. 109, No. 3*

Camille Saint-Saëns





11:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

# Seventeenth Sunday *after Pentecost*

---

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

## GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Welcome & Centering

\*Call to Worship

Side A: *How dear to us is your dwelling,*

Side B: O Lord of Hosts!

Side A: *Our souls have a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;*

Side B: All Creation rejoices in your holy presence, O God!

**All: Let us worship the Lord together.**

\*Hymn 15 *All Creatures of Our God and King* (stanzas 1-4)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Giver of Life, in the midst of a plundered Earth, we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of poisoned water, we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of polluted air, we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of mountainous waste, we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of rising seas, we groan with creation:

**Have mercy on us. Giver of Life, forgive us, and make us agents of healing for the good of your creation, through Jesus Christ we pray.**

*Silence is kept.*

Assurance of Grace

Passing of the Peace

As you pass the peace, you are invited to reflect with those around you on how you saw God in creation this past week.

Hymn 582

*Glory to God*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

---

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.**

### PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination 288     *Spirit of the Living God*  
**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**  
**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**  
**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**  
**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

First Reading

Psalm 23

God's word for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Matthew 6:25-33

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*All Creatures of Our God*

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer

### RESPONSE

Blessing of the Animals

God, creator and sustainer of all creation

**You gave us the gift of all the animals on Earth**

Each animal created in your image

**We ask that you bless all pets gathered here today**

Recognizing that all animals are essential in your creation

**We love, value and honor all our pets and their role in creation. Amen.**

*Pastors will come to bless the animal individually.*

Prayer 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin  
against us; 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 32

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

\*Benediction

...we go out in peace,

**to love, to serve, to imagine.**

Closing Voluntary



### THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Brainstorm ways that you can help care for creation and especially animals in a society that prioritizes car ownership, using fossil fuels, and tolerates pollution. How are we as Christians called to respond and react? How do you heed God's call to be faithful to the environment?



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

---

## **NEW TO FIRST PRES?**

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. Please sign the Friendship Pad. Sign it then pass it down to others. The online Friendship Pad can be found on our website, [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org).

## **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?**

You already belong at First Pres, but we'd love to officially welcome you to membership if you haven't taken that step yet. You can join as a full member or as an affiliate, keeping your primary membership elsewhere.

The process has two parts:

1. Attend a fast-track session on an upcoming Sunday for a half-hour meet-and-greet with pastors and elders.
2. Before or after that, attend a new member class.

Our next fast-track sessions are **today, September 15, and October 13, at 10:45 am**, and our next new member class is **September 29, at 4 p.m.** Interested? Contact Rev. Mel Rogers at [mrogers@fpca2.org](mailto:mrogers@fpca2.org) or 734-904-0049.

## **PRAYER**

If you would like someone to pray with you, stop by Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 am service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer.

## **CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & CHILDCARE**

We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the Sanctuary or Monteith Hall. We also offer childcare for children ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Ask an usher for directions.

## **GIVING**

Through your generosity, we help build a stronger, more vibrant community, extending hope, compassion, and love to those in need, while ensuring the spiritual growth and vitality of First Presbyterian church for generations to come. To give online visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM88/home>

## **PARKING**

Additional parking is located at the Forest Avenue parking structure located on South Forest Avenue between South University and Willard. Accessible parking spaces are available near the Sanctuary. If you would like a church parking permit for an accessible parking space, please speak to one of our Parish Nurses, Barb DeLancey or Stacey Pakela ([bdelancy@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bdelancy@firstpresbyterian.org) or [spakela@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:spakela@firstpresbyterian.org)).

Cover art: "Who Do You Say That I Am?" by Jen Norton

The liturgy for 9:30 am worship is adapted from work by Bruce Prewer and Thom M. Shuman.

Music copyrights: All music is reprinted under OneLicense.net A-720542 and under CCLI license #20971309. All rights reserved.

*First Presbyterian worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online. If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, please speak with an usher.*

# Leading in Worship

---

Worship at 8:30, 9:30, & 11:30 am; Livestream at 9:30 am

---

## LEADING IN WORSHIP

8:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Tommy Langejans, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, *Associate Pastor*

Dennis Thompson, *Lay Reader*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Tommy Langejans, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*

Martin Gehrke, *Lay Reader*

## MUSICIANS

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Cary Dumas, *Guest Organist*

Rick Ingram, *Guest Chancel Choir Conductor*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

**USHERS** 9:30 AM

RO Andrus

Keith Bilby

Sheila Bilby

Jim Cameron

Carol Carter

Spaulding Clark

Joe Schmidt

Connie Swindle

Martin Swindle

**GREETER** 9:30 AM

Linda Koos

**PRAYER PARTNERS**

Jeanette Kibler

Brad Taylor

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Taylor Elizabeth-Blair Calhoun by her family and friends.

The rosebud is in honor of Arthur William Ewels Sawtell, born September 2, 2024. His parents are Charlotte and Reid Sawtell. Grandparents are Bobbie Ewels and Jim Anderson.

Last week's chancel flowers were given by Bill and Betty Anderson to the glory of God and in loving memory of their beloved daughter Anne Christine Anderson.

# Today in Faith Formation

---

## ADULTS

10:45 AM

**EXPLORING THE FAITH | Lewis Room**

*Compassion and Faith: Developing Self-Compassion: Why and How*

Host: Jane Dutton

Speaker: Jennifer Griggs

**EXPLORING THE BIBLE | French Room**

*Introduction to the Parables of Jesus*. Next week: the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32.

Host: Ed Koster

**FIRST FRIENDS | Curtis Room**

Video and discussion of *John: The Gospel of Light and Life: The Miraculous Signs*

Host: Carol Pawloski

## CHILDCARE & NURSERY

9:15 AM to 12:15 PM

AGES 5 AND YOUNGER | Room 101

## CHILDREN

10:45 to 11:25 AM

LEMON CHAPEL SINGERS (K-8TH GRADE) | Room 300

## COLLEGE STUDENTS/UKIRK | YOUTH ROOM

1:00 PM

Join us for lunch, conversation, and fellowship. We'll discuss upcoming events for the year.

## YOUTH

10:30 to 10:45 AM

**CONFIRMATION | Social Hall**

Coffee Hour conversation

10:45 to 11:25 AM

**FAITH + CREATIVE ARTS (9TH-12TH GRADE) | Youth Room (Lower Level)**

Engage the stories of our sacred scripture and questions of faith in unique and creative ways — using music, art, and drama.

6:00 to 7:30 PM

**YOUTH GROUP | Social Hall & Youth Room**

All 6th through 12th graders are invited every Sunday for dinner, games, discussion, and tons of fun! We offer a supportive space where every teen feels valued and inspired to live out their faith in meaningful ways.

# Announcements

---

## **ALL CHURCH**

### **Congregational Meeting**

*September 29 | 10:30 am*

The Session has called a congregational meeting to be held at the conclusion of 9:30 am worship on September 29, for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons to the Class of 2027 and members to the Congregational Nominating Committee Class of 2025; and amending the bylaws to add an additional elder under the age of 25.

### **5th Sunday Potluck**

*September 29 | 10:30 am | Social Hall*

Bring a dish to share at our 5th Sunday Potluck following 9:30 am worship.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

### **Fair Trade Coffee is Back!**

Coffee Hour today is "Coffee Cake Sunday," sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee. Come enjoy homemade coffee cakes! Purchase bags of Fair Trade Coffee! Guess how many beans are in the jar - and win a prize! All ages can submit an entry!

## **MISSION**

### **Donate a Winter Coat**

*September 15-29 | Welcome Center*

Cass Community Center is in need of clean, well-kept coats for both kids and adults. Please ensure your coats are freshly laundered, free of holes or stains, and have working zippers or all buttons intact. Donation bins are in the Welcome Center.

### **Food Rescue Volunteers Needed**

The Feeding Our Neighbors program rescues the leftover food from U of M's home football games and gives it to those in need. Sign up to volunteer, [firstpresbyterian.org](http://firstpresbyterian.org)

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

### **PW Undercover Operation for House by the Side of the Road**

*September - November | Welcome Center*

We're collecting new underwear, socks, and pajamas for women and children of all sizes (women's XXL - XXXL are especially needed). Cash donations may be made on the website.

### **Cyber Seminars by PW and Clear Computing**

*September 25 | 10:30 am*

"Cybersecurity" in the Lewis Room. Suggested donation: \$15. Bring your laptop, iPad, or smartphone. To register, contact Alli Spiller at 734-480-8362 or [alli@clearcomputing.net](mailto:alli@clearcomputing.net).

## **SCOUTS**

### **Talent Show and Pancake Dinner**

*September 27 | 5:30 pm | Social Hall*

Boy Scout Troop 7 is hosting a talent show and pancake dinner to raise funds for a trip to Philmont High Adventure camp in New Mexico in 2025. Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes and entertainment. Cost: \$10 per adult; \$5 per child 10 & under; \$30 for a family

## **YOUNG ADULTS**

### **Game Night**

*Sunday, September 22 | 6pm-7:30 pm | Vance Room*

Join us for games, pizza, and snacks. To receive emails about upcoming young adult events, email Tommy Langejans at [tlangejans@fpca2.org](mailto:tlangejans@fpca2.org).