



First
Presbyterian
Church *of Ann Arbor*



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 22, 2024
8:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship



8:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Eighteenth 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 Sentences (Psalm 139:1–2)

You have searched me
and known me, O God.
You know when I sit down
and when I rise up.

(Silence is kept.)

Be still and aware of God's presence
within and all around.

Centering Prayer

Thanks be to you, O God,
that we have risen this day
to the rising of this life itself.

May it be a day of blessing,
O God of every gift,
a day of new beginnings given.

Help us to avoid every sin
and the source of every sin to forsake,
and as the mist scatters
from the crest of the hills
may each ill haze clear
from our souls, O God.

by J. Phillip Newell

Passing of the Peace

PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading

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

Psalm 124

Reflection

Prayers for the Bright Light of Love

**O Christ of the poor and the yearning,
kindle in my heart within
a flame of love for my neighbor,**

**for my foe, for my friend,
for my kindred all.
From the humblest thing that lives
to the Name that is highest of all,
kindle in my heart within
a flame of love.**

Pray for the coming day and for justice and peace.

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.

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 After Communion

SENDING

Closing Prayer

This day and this night,

O God, may we know the deep peace of the running wave,

the deep peace of the flowing air,

the deep peace of the quiet earth,

the deep peace of the shining stars,

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

Amen.



9:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

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GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Psalm 139
Sanctus Ringers

Fred Gramann

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

* Call to Worship

People of God, what is your request?

To glorify God and enjoy God forever.

Fellow disciples, what does God call us to do?

To seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

Siblings in Christ, ask, and you shall receive. Seek, and you shall find.

Show us your ways, O Lord. Teach us your truth. Comfort us with your love.

* Hymn 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

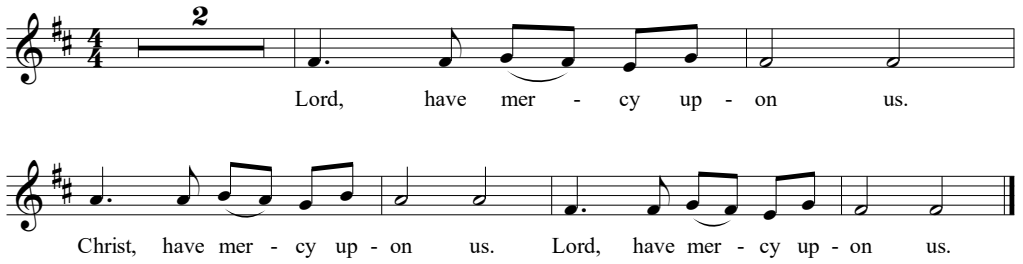
LAUDA ANIMA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God who calls, you invite us to participate in your work, work that brings new life to a hurting world. You call us, but sometimes, we cover our ears, because what you ask feels unfamiliar, or difficult, or daunting. By the Holy Spirit, give us the courage to do what is right, even when it's not easy. Sustain us, as we pursue the restoring love that only you can provide....

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

DUKE STREET

**Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 Life with its way before us lies;
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

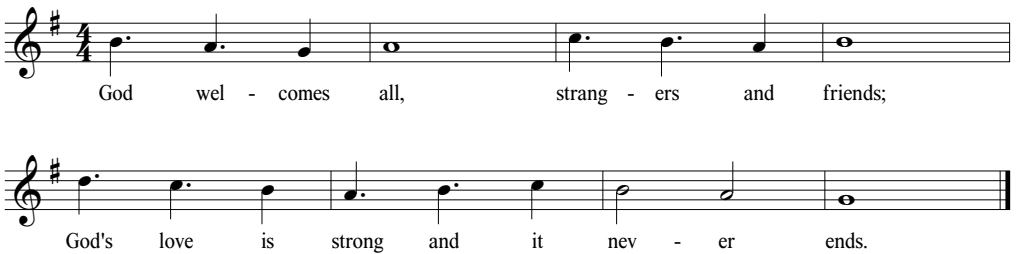
First Scripture Reading

Psalms 124:1-8

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

Esther 7:1-10

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

Sermon



11:30 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Eighteenth Sunday *after Pentecost*

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GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Welcome & Centering

*Call to Worship

Side A: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Side B: Nations rise and fall, but God remains ruler of all.

Side A: Blessed are those who hunger for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Side B: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Side A: Blessed is the one who brings justice to the oppressed!

Side B: Blessed is the one who ushers in new life!

All: Blessed are you, Lord!

Gather us together to celebrate your goodness!

*Hymn 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (stanzas 1, 2, and 4)*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God who calls, you invite us to participate in your work, work that brings new life to a hurting world. You call us, but sometimes, we cover our ears, because what you ask feels unfamiliar, or difficult, or daunting. By the Holy Spirit, give us the courage to do what is right, even when it's not easy. Sustain us, as we pursue the restoring love that only you can provide.

Silence is kept.

Assurance of Grace

Passing of the Peace

As you pass the peace, you are invited to share an answer to this question: when is a time God gave you the courage to do the right thing?

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

God's word for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Esther 6

Second Reading

The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the Word of the Lord endures forever.

Sermon

RESPONSE

Response Activity

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 286

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

*Benediction

...we go out in peace,

to love, to serve, to imagine.

Closing Voluntary



THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Take a few minutes to reflect on some of the accomplishments and positive decisions you've made in your life. Choose one or two examples, and write down any small blessings that led to that positive thing happening. "Small blessings" are any blessings you wouldn't have imagined as blessings at the time – conversations, coincidences, mistakes, etc.

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.

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 session is **October 13, at 10:45 am**. Our next new member class is **September 29, at 4 p.m.** Interested? Contact Rev. Mel Rogers at 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 or spakela@firstpresbyterian.org).

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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. David Prentice-Hyers, *Lead 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*

Michael Oswalt, *Lay Reader*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Tommy Langejans, *Resident Minister*

MUSICIANS

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

Sanctus Ringers

David Hufford, *Organist*

David VanderMeer, *Minister of Music & Fine Arts*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

USHERS 9:30 AM

Joe Schmidt, *Head Usher*

Bill Austin, *Head Usher Emeritus*

RO Andrus

Keith Bilby

Sheila Bilby

Jim Cameron

Dick Carlisle

Carol Carter

Spaulding Clark

Connie Swindle

Martin Swindle

PRAYER PARTNER 9:30 AM

Beth Gerwig

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dave and Pat Clyde on their anniversary, by their family.

Today in Faith Formation

CHILDCARE & NURSERY

9:15 AM to 12:15 PM

AGES 5 AND YOUNGER | Room 101

CHILDREN

10:45 to 11:25 AM

KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE | Room 302

Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep

2ND & 3RD GRADE | Room 303

4TH & 5TH GRADE GRADE | Room 304

Welcome All: *Who's That Stranger?* (based on Luke 24:13-24)

YOUTH

10:45 AM TO 11:25 AM

CONFIRMATION CLASS | Youth Room (Lower Level)

MIDDLE SCHOOL | Room LL4 (Lower Level)

HIGH SCHOOL | Room LL1 (Lower Level)

See Christ in Every Person (based on Luke 7:36-48)

6:00 to 7:30 PM

YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-12) | Social Hall & Youth Room

All 6th - 12th graders are invited for dinner, games, discussion, and tons of fun!

ADULTS

10:45 AM

EXPLORING THE FAITH | Sanctuary

Awakening Compassion through the Arts

Host: Margaret Reynolds Speaker: David VanderMeer

EXPLORING THE BIBLE | French Room

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 "I AM" Sayings*

Host: Carol Pawloski

FOLLOW ME | Room 102

Welcome All: See Christ in Every Person

YOUNG ADULTS

6:00 to 7:30 PM

GAME NIGHT | Vance Room

7:00 to 9:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY | Chris Wahl's home & Zoom

Discussion of the book of Daniel. For more information, email cgwahl@umich.edu

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

We are practicing God's big, wide, expansive invitation and welcome by providing a place for all by having a 5th Sunday Potluck together! Bring some of your family's favorite comfort foods and join us around tables as we enjoy food, conversations, and activities as we explore the "all" in Welcome All!

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Undercover Operation

We're collecting new underwear, socks, and pajamas for women and children of all sizes for House by the Side of the Road. XXL - XXXL women's sizes are especially needed. Donations may be placed in the Welcome Center collection basket from September through November. Visit the church website to make a financial donation.

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.

Christian Ministry Scholarships

It's not just for seminary anymore! Funds from PW participants and endowed gifts provide scholarships to those interested in educational opportunities in Christian Ministry. They are available for any First Pres participant, member, staff, or pastor seeking to increase their knowledge and skills. Funding may be used (if approved) for conferences, seminars, camp, or formal studies. Contact Meg Brown for more information.

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