

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 17, 2021



How Did You Come to Know Me by Jan Richardson



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

1 God, re - veal your pres - ence: glad - ly we a - dore you,
 2 In God's ho - ly pres - ence, hear the harps re - sound - ing;
 3 Foun - tain of all bless - ing, pu - ri - fy my spir - it;

and with awe ap - pear be - fore you. Ho - ly is your tem -
 see the crowds the throne sur - round - ing: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -
 all my trust is in your mer - it. Like the ho - ly an -

ple: all with - in keep si - lence, hum - bly bow with deep - est
 ly!" hear the hymn as - cend - ing, an - gels, saints, their voic - es
 gels on your glo - ry gaz - ing, we a - dore, ho - san - nas

rev - erence. You a - lone now we own as our
 blend - ing. Turn your ear to us here; hear, O
 rais - ing. Let your will ev - er still rule your

God and Sav - ior: praise your name for - ev - er!
 Christ, the prais - es that your church now rais - es.
 church ter - res - trial, as the hosts ce - les - tial.

Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Today's Prayer of Confession was written by Beth Merrill Neel. God promises always to love and forgive us — even when we don't follow God's way, or when we do things that hurt others. Everyone makes mistakes; that is why we confess our sin together. When we confess our sin, we say that we are sorry for these things, and we ask God to forgive us and help us live new lives. Because Jesus lived and died and rose again for us, we know that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. That is why when the leader says, "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven," we respond, "Thanks be to God."

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY

God, Reveal Your Presence

David Cherwien

CALL TO WORSHIP

Young or old, slow or fast; tall or small, know-it-alls or eager learners:

Wonder of wonders! God has called each of us here.

Wrinkled, white-haired, stooped with age;

bright-eyed, smooth skinned, leapers of two steps at a time:

Wonder of wonders! Each of us is made in God's image.

Parents helping kids learn online, teens playing ball;

workers stocking shelves, nurses administering vaccines:

Wonder of wonder! God works through each of us.

HYMN 412

God, Reveal Your Presence

ARNSBERG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, hear our prayer:

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our fear and anger;

For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;

For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;

For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;

We pray for the courage to admit our fault and confront our biases,

The strength to amend our actions,

And the hope that your grace awaits us.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

LAND OF REST



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



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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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.

This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 475, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (NETTLETON).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SOLO

Search Me, O God

KÀM-CHHAT

Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Try me, O God, and know my thoughts,
and see if there be any wicked way in me.
And lead me in the everlasting way.

This is Hymn 426.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 1:35–43

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

SERMON

The text of *Search Me, O God* is Psalm 139:23–24. The Taiwanese musical setting gives the words a beautiful sense of mystery and awe.

At First Pres, we strive to use inclusive language for God.

The use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God's people in scripture. The rediscovery of the complementarity of female and male metaphors in the Bible and the literature of the early church forbids Christians to settle for literary poverty in the midst of literary riches.

RESPONDING

HYMN 795

Healer of Our Every Ill

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL



Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your peace and
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is still un -
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - ery sis - ter, ev - ery
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your way of



glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service. As you

consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: online on the First Pres homepage ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below. (Call Finance Manager Anna Miller if you need assistance.)



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

The Call from Five Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
 Such a Way, as gives us breath:
 Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
 Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:
 Such a Light, as shows a feast:
 Such a Feast, as mends in length:
 Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
 Such a Joy, as none can move:
 Such a Love, as none can part:
 Such a Heart, as joys in love.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer: Maori and Polynesia
 was originally published in *The New Zealand Prayer Book* in 1989.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
 sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trial too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
 now and forever. Amen.

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rliq2l>

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SENDING

HYMN 295

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Go to the World!

Timothy Shaw

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Andrew Frazier; Liturgists – Mark Mares and Evans McGowan; Scripture Reader – Gwen Richert; Children’s Message – Beca Torres-Davenport and Amy Ruhf; Preacher – Melissa Anne Rogers; Soloists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, David Magumba, Joseph Sevig, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Bryan Magnuson

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>. If you need help, please contact Rev. Rogers.

Today’s conversation prompt: What new insights have come to you through recent events?

Chancel Flowers are given in honor of parents helping kids learn online; teens playing ball; workers stocking shelves, and nurses administering vaccines. Wonder of wonders! God works through each of us.

A pink rosebud celebrates the birth of Vindya Dadwal Mulcrone, born to Patrick and Ushashi Mulcrone on January 9, 2021. First-time grandparents are Jim and Renee Mulcrone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ordination and Installation of Officers is today, Sunday, January 17, at 5:00 p.m., on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>). It’s always a joyful day when we ordain and install officers to serve Christ by serving this congregation. Join us as we welcome and pray for those whom God has called to lead First Pres. Elders to be ordained and installed are Jennifer Day, Kate Kraft, Steve McKenny, Keith Molin, Renee Mulcrone, Len Rezmierski, Jean Song, and Deanne Woodruff. Deacons to be ordained and installed are Betty Anderson, Anne Andrus, Kim Byers-Granito, Lisa Danielson, Sharon Dort, Carol Downton, Jennifer Edwards, Pam Ehrhart, Kathy Hillig, Nicole Jolliet, Catherine Kendall, Linda Koos, Chris Lin, Betsy McCallister, Angie Miller, Nelly Petrock, Brad Taylor, Nancy Tena, and Felicity Williams. Pandemic safety precludes our being able to gather in person for a service that traditionally includes the ancient Christian symbol of the laying-on of hands. On the other hand, Zoom offers us an opportunity to be present together in real time to offer our prayerful support to the full cohort of elected leaders.

First Pres is offering an Inauguration Prayer Service via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81710949139>), on Tuesday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m., and on Wednesday, January 20, at 9:00 a.m. Join our staff for about a half-hour as we pray for our nation, for our incoming President and Vice President, and for the safety of our leaders in Washington, DC, and throughout the nation.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is called by Session for Sunday, January 31, for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report of the church, voting on changes to the installed pastors’ terms of call, and acting on any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting will begin immediately following the Closing Voluntary. This virtual meeting may be accessed by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>.

Resident Minister Rev. Amy Ruhf has been called to active duty as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and will end her time as one of our pastors in Ann Arbor on January 31. Amy is a 2019 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, and has used her time at First Pres to refine her call to mainline Protestant military chaplaincy. From Ann Arbor, Amy will travel to Newport, Rhode Island, for more training and then will move to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. There she will serve as a Navy Chaplain to those women and men stationed there. Our Coffee Hour next Sunday, January 24, will be a time to celebrate Rev. Ruhf and to thank her for her faithful contributions to First Pres and commission her for further service to the U.S. Navy. Contributions toward a special gift for her may be sent to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller or may be dropped off at the church Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00. Checks should be made payable to First Pres with the purpose noted on the memo line.

Reopening Update: A heartfelt gratitude to those who attended our Christmas Eve Walk-Thru the Sanctuary, as well as all of the staff and volunteers who made it happen! By adhering to best social distancing practices, everyone kept safe while celebrating the birth of Christ. Training on using our new camera system in the Sanctuary takes place this week as we continue to make the transition to livestreaming. As we say goodbye to several staff members, others are taking on new roles until new staff can be hired. Stay tuned for further updates here and on our website. Please contact Rev. McGowan if you have any questions.

The prayer team meets Monday mornings via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357>) from 9:00–9:30 a.m. with Rev. Rogers. Join us to offer prayer for others or bring the needs of you and your loved ones for prayer. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers.

The Local Missions Work Group reports that First Pres Advent Donations are already feeding, clothing and entertaining local children in need. Art supplies and sports equipment were delivered to Peace Neighborhood Center in time for their Holiday Toy distribution to low-income families. Socks, underwear, and T-shirts were delivered to Community Action Network for distribution to children of all ages living in low-income communities. Food Gatherers, which supports food pantries throughout Washtenaw County, received 350 pounds of food. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for your generosity! Welcome College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m. there are in-person, socially-distant college lunches. Each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. there are small group opportunities, both in-person and virtually. Contact Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are many available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact her (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Visit our Virtual Art Exhibit “For the Beauty of the Earth” by clicking www.fboe.weebly.com. The photography is by Judy Kisla of Atlanta, Georgia.

Ministry of Music: If you would like to participate in the Chancel Choir’s virtual anthems, contact Dave VanderMeer for more information: dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org. All are welcome to participate!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom to discuss “How We Can Face the Future Without Fear, Together.”

Exploring the Faith meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>) at 11:30 a.m. (a new time), for “Why Jesus’ Jewishness Matters to Christians,” a 4-week series led by Rev. Deborah Forger, a former First Pres Resident Minister. This series highlights the first-century Jewish world in which Jesus was born and why Jesus’ Jewishness matters to Christians. We will learn about Jesus as a figure in history as a first century Palestinian Jew.

Bible Study with Ed Koster meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>) today at 3:30 p.m. This time change, for today only, allows all to participate in the Ordination and Installation Service at 5:00.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families. Beca can be reached at btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org.

Children's Choir News. The Children's Choir meets virtually on Sundays, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate. Choir includes singing, chanting, playing drums, and moving with scarves.

All children's faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. The Story Bible and curriculum materials are available from the church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time. Mark can be reached at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

All youth faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. When you log on, please make sure Zoom names are updated to reflect each youth present and what class you will be participating in (Middle/High/Confirmation).

Our Confirmation Class meets on Zoom the second and third Sunday of each month, and in person for the fourth Sunday. If you are interested in joining, it isn't too late – just let Rev. Mark know.

Our High School students will meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events. We're really looking forward to thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith leads us in our everyday lives.

Middle School and High School Youth Group gatherings alternate between in-person (first and third Sundays) and virtual (second and fourth Sundays) of each month. We gather together for games and fellowship as a large group and break out into Middle School/High School groups for conversations. Contact Pastor Mark for more information. All are welcome!

CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Frazier (afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

The next Taizé Prayer Service is Tuesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of January will be overseen by the Local Missions Team. Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor is the recipient of your generosity.

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings, but planning only one or two weeks at a time. Please call Marcy (995–2519) if you would like more information.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister

Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator

Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister

Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families

Reverend Evans McGowan, Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries

Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor

Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts

Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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