



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

FEBRUARY 25, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

PRELUDE

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Rogers (8:00/11:00)
Rev. Buckley (9:30)

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 26:8; Numbers 24:5; Psalm 96:6

One: O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,

All: and the place where your glory abides.

One (sung): Mah to-vu o-ha-le-cha Y-a-kov
mish-k'-no-te-cha Yis-ra-el.

**All (sung): Mah to-vu o-ha-le-cha Y-a-kov
mish-k'-no-te-cha Yis-ra-el.**

One: How fair are your tents, O Jacob,

All: your encampments, O Israel!

One (sung): Mah to-vu o-ha-le-cha Y-a-kov
mish-k'-no-te-cha Yis-ra-el.

**All (sung): Mah to-vu o-ha-le-cha Y-a-kov
mish-k'-no-te-cha Yis-ra-el. (repeated)**

One: O come, let us worship and bow down,

All: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

HYMN 466 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON
Following an extended introduction, please stand with the choir to sing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, like our ancestors in the faith, we confess that we are impatient and selfish. We can barely wait in traffic or to see the doctor so it's especially hard to wait on you. When you offer us the promise of a new future, we complain that you don't get there fast enough. When you provide for our needs, we complain that it isn't enough, or that we don't like the food you delivered. And when our cantankerous attitudes cause us to stumble, we blame you.

Holy God, forgive us and turn us around. Turn our impatience into action and our moodiness into service. Focus our frustrations on the things that need to be changed.

God, we do not want to wait any longer for an end to violence and war. We do not want to wait any longer for an end to racism, homelessness and hunger. We do not want to wait any longer for everyone to have enough water to drink or food to eat. Kindle our righteous anger, O God, and move us toward acts of justice and mercy, so all may experience the boundless love of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S 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**

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

 Proclaiming 

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cheryl Gulbranson (8:00)
Jean White (9:30)
Tom McKarns (11:00)

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 3:14-21

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

ANTHEM (9:30/11:00) *God So Loved the World* John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Numbers 21:4-9

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

SERMON

It's Not That Easy

Rev. Sanderford

 **Responding** 

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* **HYMN 85**

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

WELCOME

Rev. Rogers (9:30)

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others sitting nearby.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory (9:30/11:00) *Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me*

Howard Helvey

Lord, thou hast searched me, and dost know
Where'er I rest, where'er I go;
Thou knowest all that I have planned,
And all my ways are in thy hand.

My words from thee I cannot hide;
I feel thy pow'r on every side;
O wondrous knowledge, awful might,
Unfathomed depth, unmeasured height!

Where can I go apart from thee,
Or whither from thy presence flee?
In Heav'n? It is thy dwelling fair;
In death's abode? Lo, thou art there.

If I the wings of morning take,
And far away my dwelling make,
The hand that leadeth me is thine,
And my support thy pow'r divine.

If deepest darkness cover me,
The darkness hideth not from thee;
To thee both night and day are bright,
The darkness shineth as the light.

Text: Psalm 139:1-12; paraphrased by John Milton, 1908-1674; vers. Psalter (1912)

* **Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* **Prayer of Dedication**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (8:00)

See Communion Card

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 478**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

* **POSTLUDE**

* Please rise in body or spirit.

Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in **bold type**. Hearing-assistance devices and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

Welcome to all! Please know that all, including visitors and newcomers, are invited to share in the life of the church. A full description of church events may be found online at www.firstpresbyterian.org. If you have questions, please visit the **Welcome Center**, just outside the Social Hall. Greeting you there today are Diane Knibbs and Lynne Lande. **The Church Office** is staffed by Robin Agnew. **Greeters** include Carol German and Paul and Meg Brown (9:30) and Karla Olson-Bellfi and Jane Hayes (11:00). **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Nancy Pflasterer at 8:00; Bill Austin (head), Len Rezmierski (captain), Joe Schmidt, Marolin Bellefleur, Beth Sanderford, Dean Gilchrist, Karla Olson-Bellfi, Dick Stuber, and Elsa Stuber at 9:30; and Bill Austin (head), Carter Hodgson (captain), Peggy Hodgson, Barry Swartz, Jeanette Swartz, Joe Cox, and Karen Cox at 11:00. **Sound system operators** are Roland Kibler (9:30) and Barry Leonard (11:00). **The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the chancel in the Sanctuary, after the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Prayer team members are Meg Brown and Diane Knibbs (9:30) and Don and Gale Redding (11:00). "Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer." — Elisabeth Elliot

Musical leadership includes Luke Panning, violin; Joshua Marzan, piano; and Chancel Choir.

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Kenneth R. Brock, III, by his parents, Ken and Jeanette Brock, and his brother John; and in loving memory of Migonette Cheng, a loving wife, mother and grandmother, by Richard Cheng.

The red rosebud celebrates the birth of Bode Christopher Voigtman, born January 22, 2018, son of Tarra and Chris Voigtman.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Worship is at 8:00 in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **Radio Worship is broadcast at 11:00 a.m.**, on WAAM (1600 AM) and on the web (www.waamradio.com).

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are Diane Knibbs, Karen Gardstrom, and David and Carol Downton. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children.

Children's Ministry Opportunities:

Childcare and Sunday School classes are held for crib through fifth graders at 9:30 a.m. **Childcare** is available for preschoolers at 11:00 a.m. Worship activity totes and Busy Hands activity baskets are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary for children attending worship at 11:00 a.m.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

All-Youth Munch & Mingle is in the Youth Room at 9:20 a.m.

Sunday School and Confirmation classes begin at 9:30 a.m.

Youth Choir (grades 6 – 12) rehearses at 4:30 p.m.

All-Youth Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. After dinner all youth are invited to meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Adult Education Opportunities:

The Bible @ 9:30 is engaged in a study of the book of Acts in the French Room/Library. Rev. Ed Koster is the facilitator. All are welcome for study and robust discussion.

First Friends meet in Monteith Hall at 9:30 a.m. to discuss *What's the Least I Can Believe to Still Be a Christian?* by Martin Thielen. First Friends is a self-directed adult group providing a safe place for people to share concerns and receive Christian support. All are welcome.

Exploring the Faith meets at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall for "CrossWords: A Lenten Series on Callings." First Pres member Callie Feyen speaks on "A Reckoning with Beauty." Don't miss this opportunity to get to know members of the First Pres community better while deepening your own Lenten journey.

Families at First meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. At this first meeting of 2018, we will discuss your concerns and joys of parenting and brainstorm ideas about future meetings. Come ready to make friends, share, laugh, and connect with other parents whose children are similar in age to yours, to help you raise strong, kind, curious, faithful and compassionate children. This is a safe space where we can be candid with one another and offer each other support and encouragement as we journey through parenting together as a community of faith. Refreshments will be served. There will be activities for children while parents meet.

T2A2 Small Group meets at Chris Wahl's house at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *Do Not Be Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith* by Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome to bring your questions and insights as we build community. For more information about all opportunities for twenties and thirties, contact Rev. Parks-Piatt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion Food Collection is next Sunday. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Please bring food donations and/or financial contributions for Hope Clinic.

Join a Lenten Small Group to study *Do Not Be Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith* by Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells. Books (\$15) are available for purchase in the Church Office. Sign up on the website or in the Church Office for one of many groups meeting in various locations, including one led by Rev. Kent Palmquist on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the Lewis Room. Don't miss this powerful opportunity to find faith in the midst of a world of fear.

Our annual Suds 'n Sheets Campaign for Cass Community Social Services is scheduled for March. For four years we have collected paper towels and laundry detergent, items always in demand at Cass, as part of our year-round support. Please drop off these items during the month of March in the baskets provided in the Welcome Center. Contact Sue Jeffers (sjeffers1@me.com) if you have questions.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, March 2, at Applebee's Restaurant, 2310 Green Road, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Join with families and friends for “Peeps and Pizza” next Saturday, March 3, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., in the Social Hall, to create your own Bible story shoe box diorama using those “crazy marshmallow Peeps.” Bring your favorite Bible story and your creative ideas for a fun, imaginative morning here at church. We’ll supply the Peeps, the shoe box, and crafting supplies. The pizza lunch is \$5 per person. Make a lunch reservation by completing the Wufoo registration form on the church website. Contact Debbie MacVey if you have questions.

Are you ready to become a member of First Pres? The next New Member Class is Sunday, March 11, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch is provided and childcare is provided upon request. The class is informative, fun, and a meaningful way to learn more about First Pres, the PC(USA), our church staff, and your fellow members! Contact Rev. Rogers or the Church Office if you are interested.

Celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day with First Pres friends at a March 17 Saturday Supper. There’s room around the table for you! You may register online through March 4 or sign up in person at Coffee Hour on March 4. Everyone is welcome at these small group potlucks hosted in church members’ homes. Please contact Sara VanderVoort (saravoort@gmail.com) for more information.

The deadline to order Easter lilies in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of a living loved one to beautify our Easter morning worship is Thursday, March 22, at noon. Following Easter worship the plants will be delivered by our deacons to those who are sick or otherwise home bound. Lilies are \$17 and may be ordered online or through the Church Office.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Palm Sunday worship is March 25 at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday worship is March 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Glacier Hills in the Hanson Room and at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

Good Friday worship is March 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday worship is April 1 at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Easter morning fellowship is in the Lounge on the 200 level before the 8:00 a.m. service. Join us for pastries, fruit, and beverages.

Easter Sunday is Family Worship Day. Childcare, for crib through young five-year-olds, is available for the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services, and for the 8:00 a.m. service by reservation. If you need childcare at 8:00 a.m., please contact the Church Office or Debbie MacVey.

Please make considerate parking choices to leave open as many spaces near the church as possible for people with mobility issues. Handicapped spaces will be designated in the parking lot on the Hillegonds Chapel side of the church. Parking is permitted on Hill Street and Washtenaw Avenue on Sunday mornings and free parking is available in the nearby parking structure at 650 South Forest Avenue.

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

Reverend Blair Buckley, Resident Minister

Reverend Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister

Reverend Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Resident Minister

Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator

Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator

Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/Children's Education Assistant

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

Megan Roemer, Finance Assistant



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