



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

FEBRUARY 26, 2017
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

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

🌿 Gathering 🌿

PRELUDE American Folk Hymns for Orchestra K. Lee Scott
Prospect ("The Lone Wild Bird")

LIFE IN THE CHURCH Rev. Ervin (8:00)
Rev. Ryo (9:30)
Rev. Sanderford (11:00)

FAITH IN ACTION *Boy Scouts* Scott Strodtman (9:30/11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:
that it is not we who chose Christ,

All: but Christ who chose us,

One: that we are not here because of our goodness

All: but because of Christ's grace,

One: that we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

All: but to allow Christ to enlighten us,

One: that we have not come to be entertained

All: but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

* **HYMN 263** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our days, O God, are spent between light and darkness. At times, as the result of our own sin, or the evil of others, we find ourselves in the darkness. At other times, we are happily caught up in your light and love. More often, we are in between, busy in the half light, trying to make the best of a compromising existence, stumbling and falling, rising and achieving. With your help we make headway, but still fall far short of the light of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Persist with your mission of saving us all. By your grace, banish our darkness and enlighten us. May we not linger dolefully in the gloom of guilt or self pity. Make us bold to move out to where the shadows are fewer, even though the brighter light shows up our flaws. Give us more of the light of Christ that our lives may reflect our deep gratitude for you.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Fellow Christians, Cheer up! Jesus says to you:

All: "Your sins are forgiven."

One: My friends, permit God's mercy to transfigure your lives. Be no longer ruled by doubt and worry but by light and love. Walk as children of the light whose ultimate glory is assured.

All: Amen!

One: The light of Christ Jesus be with you always.

All: And also with you.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as forgiven people. Greet one another saying, "The light of Jesus Christ be with you always," and respond, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michele Derr (8:00)

Scott Strodman (9:30)

Trip Apley (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 24:12-18

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 17:1-9

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

SERMON

Rev. Rogers

🌿 Responding 🌿

* **HYMN**

O Lord, as You Were on Your Way

REPTON

Please remain seated and stand to sing when indicated.

O Lord, as you were on your way to where you'd one day die,
You wanted time to rest and pray, to hear God's word to you that day.
You climbed a mountain high with three good friends close by.

So soon, the three became aware of such a wondrous sight.
Your face shone bright beyond compare,
just like a glimpse of heaven there!
Your clothes were dazzling white; your glory came to light.

Please stand and sing.

**The Law, the Prophets guided you as you discerned God's will.
With Moses and Elijah, too, you spoke of God's great plan for you,
God's promise to fulfill one Friday on a hill.**

**Why could you not remain with them and there in glory stay?
God said, "This is my own dear Son! Now listen to him, everyone!"
And so you turned to say you'd go the harder way.**

**O Lord, how often we pursue success at any cost,
And yet we hear God's word anew, that we are called to follow you,
Who served the poor and lost and journeyed to the cross.**

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WELCOME

Rev. Ervin (9:30)

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

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (9:30)

Elders Marita Servais and Jim Cameron
Joining the church today are Jim Hall, Kyle Hall, Alice Owings, Linda Pace,
Andrew Paine, Lindsley Paine, Cassee Stem, and William Taylor.

Hymn of Welcome *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory (9:30/11:00) *Christus Paradox*

arr. Alfred Fedak
orch. John Ferguson

You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier's toss.
You, the everlasting instant; you who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory. Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life.

Text by Sylvia Dunstan © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

* **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)

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 73**

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

GENEVA

* **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**

American Folk Hymns for Orchestra

K. Lee Scott

Promised Land ("On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand")

* 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 (in the Sanctuary) and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession were written by Bruce Prewer. Musical leadership today includes our Chancel Choir and Orchestra.

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 Nancy Pflasterer and Sandy Herbertson. **The Church Office** is open this morning 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Nick Gardner will be in the office until 10:45. Serving during the 11:00 a.m. hour is Jane Bartman.

Greeters are Dave Schmidt, Jane Myers, Ginny Rezmierski, Peggy Jensen, and John and Dawn Pankopf. **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Michele Derr at 8:00 a.m.; Bill Austin (head), Len Rezmierski (captain), Joe Schmidt, Bob Larson, Marolin Bellefleur, Beth Sanderford, Dean Gilchrist, and Karla Olson-Bellfi at 9:30 a.m.; and Bill Austin (head), Carter Hodgson (captain), Cindy Andress, Joe Cox, and Karen Cox at 11:00 a.m.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. Prayer team members are Anne Kloack and Jean White after the 9:30 service, and Carol Downton and Mary Lynn Thomson after the 11:00 service. Following the 8:00 a.m. service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. “Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers.” – Sidlow Baxter

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Nancy Avery Webster by her brother, Earl Avery; and in loving memory of Mignonette Cheng, a loving wife, mother and grandmother by Richard Cheng.

The pink rosebud celebrates the birth of Emily Ann Palmer, born June 2, 2016, daughter of Corey and John Palmer.

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).

Today is Scout Sunday. We welcome members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 7 and their leaders to morning worship and recognize them for their roles of leadership. Boy Scout Troop 7 was formed in March 1918 at the Ann Arbor YMCA. It moved briefly to the Methodist Church and in 1920 moved to First Presbyterian Church. About 2000 scouts have been associated with Troop 7 over the last 97 years. If you have questions, contact Scott Strodtman (scott.strodtman@comcast.net).

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

Please sign up for a Lenten small group in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour today. *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study*, by Marjorie Thompson, is available for purchase (\$10) during Coffee Hour and in the Church Office. You may also sign up online or in the Church Office for the group in your quad that works best for you.

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.

Children's Choir is 10:30 – 10:55 a.m. in Room 300.

Palm burning for Ash Wednesday services is at 10:40 on the Cross Courtyard Terrace outside Monteith Hall.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

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

Sunday School classes meet 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Youth Choir rehearses 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Mids youth group meets 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Curtis Room.

Keystones youth group meets 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Adult Education Opportunities:

The Bible @ 9:30 meets in the French Room/Library to study Luke and Acts. The presenter is Rev. Ed Koster.

First Couples meets in Monteith Hall at 9:30 a.m. for spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, and support for couples and individuals. The current study book, *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right*, by Lisa Sharon Harper, is available in the Church Office for \$15.

Exploring the Faith meets in Monteith Hall at 11:00 a.m.

"Families at First," an event for parents of children ages 7 – 12, sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, is at 11:00 a.m. in the Founders Room. Come and meet other parents as we discuss ways to support one another as faithful parents. Children are welcome.

Lenten Small Group Leader Training is at 12:15 p.m. in the Curtis and Founders Rooms.

T2A2 Small Group meets off-site at 7:00 p.m. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, a working professional or a grad student, we invite all in their twenties and thirties to come and build community with us. For more information, please contact Rev. Ryo or Rev. Ervin.

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 or financial contributions for Hope Clinic, an ecumenical Christian organization in Ypsilanti that provides help to those in need.

During the month of February everyone in the congregation is asked to make a one-time, above-and-beyond gift to fund critical repairs to our Sanctuary trusses. The church has signed a not-to-exceed contract of \$150,000. Fabrication of materials will begin immediately, with installation scheduled for the summer. Please donate online or make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church noting "Building Fund" on the memo line. Donations of \$118,095 have been received to date. Please give today and help us complete this project!

March is the month for our Suds 'n Sheets Campaign for Cass Community Social Services Center in Detroit. Please drop off laundry detergent and paper towels, items always in demand at Cass, in the baskets provided in the Welcome Center. Contact Sue Jeffers (sjeffers1@me.com) if you have questions.

Do you have a wind, brass or percussion instrument that is still playable but no longer being used? Please consider donating it to a young person who needs an instrument to help create a band in one of the poorest villages in Peru. Call Jeff Taggart (358-4353) or Ginny Rezmierski (971-6221) for a drop-off or pick-up appointment. Instruments will be collected until March 31. Donations are tax deductible.

Are you struggling with mental illness in your family? First Pres staff and members facilitate a support group called "Restore Hope" for family members who have loved ones coping with mental illness. The group meets twice per month. We have parents, siblings, children, and extended family members of those with mental illness attending for mutual support, encouragement, and a safe place to talk. For more information, contact Rev. Rogers.

The Men's Friday Morning Study Group meets March 3 and 17 at 8:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee and conversation centered around *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. The book is available for \$10 in the Church Office. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, March 3, 5:30 p.m., at Applebee's, 2310 Green Road. All are welcome.

There's still room for more guests around the Saturday Suppers' tables on March 18. We're looking forward to having you at one of these small group potlucks hosted by First Pres families in their homes. A "must try" for new church members, this is the place to put names to the faces you see on Sundays and to experience the warmth of church fellowship while sharing a delicious supper. Registration continues online through March 5 or you may sign up in person during Coffee Hour next Sunday, March 5. For more information contact Sara Vander Voort (saravoort@gmail.com).

All are invited to join Women's Bible Study which begins a new series Tuesday, March 7, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room. Join us for an eight-week study of the book of James by Beth Moore. Workbooks (\$20) are available for purchase at the first class. For more information contact Lois Nissly (761-2925), Anne Kloack (973-2826), or Mary Kay Gray (971-7079).

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

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

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Reverend Dr. James Monnett, Director of Youth Ministry/Transitional Campus Minister

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

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

Carol Muehlig, Organist and Handbell Director

Resident Ministers:

Reverend Emily Béghin

Reverend Daniel Ervin

Reverend Angela Ryo

Lex Allum, Peer Minister

Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Lisa Hadrill, 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

Stephanie Anderson, Finance Assistant



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