

# Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 22, 2020



*See Me*

Patricia Gilbreath



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

**Making God's Love Visible**

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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**.

### **The Call to Worship**

flows from the Opening Voluntary. The words of the Call to Worship are scriptural, and are intended to remind us that worship centers on God and not on us. The Call is often responsive, and offers our praise and adoration to God. It is important to remember that God calls us to worship — we do not need to call God into our presence — God is always with us.

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY *Now Thank We All Our God*

Johann Sebastian Bach

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have found our way to life in a land that does not belong to us:

**All: the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness;  
the land where we live is a borrowed blessing.**

One: We have been nourished by a fruitfulness far beyond our own labors:

**All: the generosity and kindness of others is our daily bread;  
the bounty of God's compassion is our shelter and our refuge.**

One: We have made our way to this day through many dangers, toils and snares:

**All: the memory of bondage and suffering remains with us;  
the hunger and thirst we remember still stir our compassion.**

One: So today, when we hear again the question, "Whom shall you serve?" —

**All: we, who are steeped in humble gratitude,  
we, who recognize our place in the web of life,**

One: We, who are coming to understand service as our calling, our hope, our joy,

**All: we affirm that *We shall serve the Lord.***

### HYMN 36

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

*This hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin.*

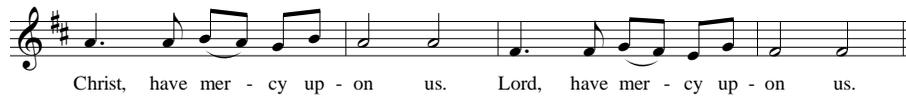
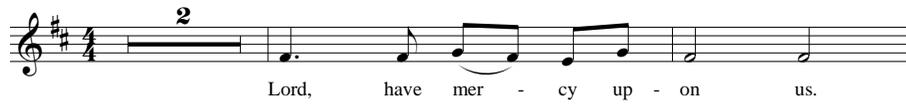
### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Through every turn of a long journey, O God, You have been our guardian and our guide. You have shown us what is good, taught us what is just, offered us direction in an ambiguous world. Now You have brought us to a place to live, a time to call our own, and a community to belong to. Yet we persist in living as though only our own comforts matter. Still we set our course along the way of anger and fear, when we could steer by the stars of generosity and kindness. Forgive us, we pray, for every failure to receive Your gifts of time, place and company as sacred gifts to be treasured, and to be cared for with courage and responsibility. By the grace of Jesus Christ, help us to renew our life together as Your people, on Your earth, in Your way —

### SILENT CONFESSION

## KYRIE

Lee Afdahl



## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



This is Hymn 583, *Glory to God* (GLORIA - TAIZÉ).

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:31-40

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Joshua 24:1...25

The grass withers; the flower fades—

**the word of our God endures forever.**

### SERMON

*Getting There*

**Did you notice that the singers now have new masks?** These are special masks for singers that have extra filter protection inside the masks and an extended frontal piece. These have been provided to our singers by the Safety Committee.

**In the Prayer for Illumination** we ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand the scripture reading. "Illumination" is the act of shining light on something. We pray God will give us new understandings of the reading, or shine the light for us to see and understand what we hear.

# RESPONDING

HYMN 186

*Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table*

COME NOW, YOU BLESSED



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble," said Je - sus  
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y? When were you  
3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren, when you gave  
4 Christ, when we see you out on life's road - ways, look - ing to



Christ to the righ - teous a - bove. "When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and  
home - less, a strang - er a - lone? When did we see you sick or in  
shel - ter to war's ref - u - gees, when you re - mem - bered those most for -  
us in the fac - es of need, then may we know you, wel - come, and



home - less, sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."  
pris - on? What have we done that you call us your own?  
got - ten, you cared for me in the small - est of these."  
show you love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

**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

*We Gather Together*

arr. Stephen Paulus

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;  
Singing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning,  
Thou, Lord, was at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that thou still our defender will be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

#### Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures high and low.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known:**

**Creator, Word, and Spirit one.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

# 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 357

*The Days Are Surely Coming*

LLANGLOFFAN

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,  
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,  
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.  
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.  
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land  
Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,  
Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.  
for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.  
and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

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/2Rlig2l>

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Together, by grace,  
we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve  
in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.**

This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 767, *Together We Serve* (SAN ANSELMO).

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** *Now Thank We All Our God [Marche Triomphale]*  
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**Leaders of Worship:** Welcome – Melissa Anne Rogers; Liturgists – Andrew Frazier and Mark Mares; Scripture Reader – Mary McKeever; Children’s Message – Khayla Johnson and Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Rick Spalding; Soloists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Leslie Smith, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Tyrese Byrd, David Hufford, Randall Nichols, David Magumba, and Benton DeGroot; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Brent Ivey

**The cover art this morning is “See Me,”** a collage based on Matthew 25:31–46. It was created by FPC member Patricia Gilbreath for the newest virtual art exhibit, “Art Against Homelessness.” This art exhibit is a project by Ethan Phillips, as a part of his work toward becoming an Eagle Scout. You can visit the whole exhibit at [www.artagainsthomeslessness.weebly.com](http://www.artagainsthomeslessness.weebly.com).

#### **A word about our autumn theme, “Getting There Together” —**

All through this momentous autumn, as a church, we’ve made our way toward a new time - a new chapter of ministry with (soon, we hope!) a new leader. Meanwhile the nation around us has faced into a season of polarization in politics and policy, vulnerability in public health, soul-searching and accountability for our values of justice, equity, liberty. During these weeks, we’ve taken as a guide the biblical story of the Exodus — the long journey of the people Israel as God heard their anguish, led them out of bondage, and accompanied them through crises of identity and faith and communal life to the threshold of a new time full of promise. All along the way we’ve been leaning on the company of Jesus, whose words of comfort and challenge have awakened us to the call into beloved community. Our journey with the people of the Exodus concludes with worship this morning. May this long journey through so many challenges toward a new time continue to teach us how to live faithfully and joyfully when we finally get where we hope we’re going together.



**Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday** immediately following the Closing Voluntary. For the first 20–30 minutes, we have group conversation, and then we split into small groups. Around 11:15, Coffee Hour conversations end. If you have questions or need help, please contact Rev. Rogers. **Today’s special guest is Parish Nurse and Wellness Coordinator, Sandy Talbott, who officially retires today.**

We invite you to help us thank her today. A new designated fund, the Sandy Talbott Speaker Series Fund, has been set up to provide an annual health and wellness speaker to help us deepen our devotion to the partnership of faith with physical and mental health and wellness. Click here to enter Coffee Hour:

<https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>

**Chancel Flowers** are given in thanksgiving for Sandy Talbott, Mary Jones, and Lisa Hadrill.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Session has called a virtual Congregational Meeting for next Sunday, November 29,** for the purpose of electing one elder and one deacon to fill unexpired terms and to elect one member for the 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee. This meeting will begin immediately following the Closing Voluntary of the 9:30 service. Zoom connection information will be in next week's bulletin and available on our website. Coffee Hour will follow the Called Congregational Meeting.

**We are the Church TOGETHER, in Faith, Love, and the Spirit Stewardship Update:** As of November 16, 289 pledges totaling \$1,088,156 have been received. This represents 64% of our \$1,700,000 goal. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help as we plan the 2021 budget. Thank you for all you do to share your Faith, Love and the Spirit through the ministries of First Pres!

**Publications Coordinator Mary Jones is retiring after serving First Pres for more than 17 years.**

Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 20, will be a time to celebrate Mary and to send her off with our gratitude and blessing. Contributions toward a special gift for Mary 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. Please see the December newsletter for other ways to participate in thanking Mary for her faithful service.

**Technology Coordinator Lisa Hadrill is leaving First Pres after serving for more than nine years.**

Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 27, will be a time to celebrate Lisa and to thank her for her faithful service. Contributions toward a special gift for Lisa 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.

**Stephen Ministers are available.** Many of us are coping with tough emotions and heavy doubts these days. The pandemic continues, a long winter is coming, we are more aware than ever of racial disparity and injustice, related protests, and a hurting economy. Your pastoral staff is available to talk with you, as are our Stephen Ministers. As spiritual friends, they are fully trained to listen, to share, and to pray with and for you. Contact the Stephen Ministry program now through Rev. Rogers ([mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org)) or Stephen Minister Kathy Wirstrom ([kwirstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:kwirstrom@yahoo.com)).

**Donate Chancel flowers** in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are available dates in upcoming weeks. *We Adore Flowers* in Ypsilanti is our new florist. Cost is now \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

**Give a poinsettia to beautify worship on December 20 and 24 in honor or memory of a loved one.** Poinsettias are \$20 and can be ordered until noon on Friday, December 11. After worship on December 20, poinsettias will be delivered to shut-ins and to those grieving in our congregation. Questions? Contact the Church Office at (734) 662-4466. <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/poinsettias-2020/>

**Story Slam 2020: "For Those Who Dream" is Coming!** Do you have a story of a dream that came true, or didn't happen as you imagined? Can you tell us of a dashed dream, or something you learned about dreaming? Do you have a dream for yourself, others, or the world that you keep alive in your heart? How do dreams, and Christ's coming, come together for you? What about Christmas? What do you imagine and hope for? Stories can fall into different categories, but they all have something in common — they move us, they challenge us, and they charm us. Please consider whether you have a story to share at this year's Slam and contact Rev. Rogers as soon as possible ([mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org); 355-2351). We will record the story slam in the Sanctuary the second week of December.

**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.

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

## 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](mailto:btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

**The Children's Choir** meets virtually on Sundays, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak ([kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org)) or Rev. Mark Mares ([mmares@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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!

**The Youth Handbell Choir** will meet today, November 22, 3:30–4:15 p.m., in the Social Hall in preparation for our upcoming Advent season.

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**First Friends** meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) at 11:00 a.m. today. All are welcome to join in the discussion on "Love Thy Neighbor: A Muslim Doctor's Struggle to Find Home."

**Exploring the Faith** meets via Zoom at 12:15 p.m. to discuss "Racism and White Privilege." All are invited to join in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>

**Bible Study @ 5:00** meets via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>

**Journeys Bible Study** meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) this fall on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Rev. Frazier ([afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org)).

## CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Tea with the Residents!** Join us every Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. via Facebook Live for a cup of tea and conversation. This time together includes prayer, a brief check-in, and a bit of conversation.

**Take a virtual tour of Ethan Phillips' Art Against Homelessness Exhibition.** Homelessness is experienced by nearly 5,000 Washtenaw County residents annually. To raise awareness about this issue, which has been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic, Ethan Phillips, a rising Eagle scout in Troop 7 and a member of our youth group, has created a virtual art exhibition as part of his Eagle project. Working with volunteer artists and First Presbyterian Church, a wide variety of pieces have been created. Use this link for a virtual tour of the exhibit: [www.artagainsthomeslessness.weebly.com](http://www.artagainsthomeslessness.weebly.com)

**Deacons will deliver home communion kits in December.** If you would like a kit for Sunday, December 6, please indicate on the friendship pad or contact your Deacon.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### 2020 Family-to-Family Christmas

Every year our congregation generously provides Christmas gifts of food, clothing, and toys for families in the Washtenaw County area. As those who have participated will attest, the act of reaching out to others in need adds a poignant reminder of the meaning and celebration of our Lord's birth. We ask you to consider giving from the heart by participating in the program in any of the following ways:

*Adopt a Family.* Sign up online to request information on a family to adopt now through December 13. The recommended minimum amount to spend per family member is \$30. Once you have received the family information, contact the family to let them know they have a donor, clarify gift needs, and determine a delivery method. We encourage donors to speak with, email, or write notes for their families during this isolating time. Due to Covid-19, all deliveries must be contactless. Delivery options are to: shop and ship the gifts directly to the family; mail gift cards to the family; or arrange a date for contactless delivery of the gifts (leaving them at the door). You may request that a volunteer do contactless delivery of your gifts on your behalf.

*Donation.* Make a financial contribution of any amount (please indicate Family-to-Family on your check). Your donation will help purchase gift cards for families not directly adopted. Financial contributions are also used to assist families at Alpha House during the holidays.

*Volunteer.* Volunteers are needed to deliver gifts on Sunday, December 20.

For more information, see the online sign-up link on the First Pres website, or contact Julie Morrison at [jdornmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:jdornmorrison@gmail.com) or 646-5351.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant  
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister  
Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator  
Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator  
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist  
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist  
Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister  
Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator  
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant  
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families  
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator  
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  
Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator & Parish Nurse  
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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1432 Washtenaw Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734 • 662 • 4466  
[www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)

