

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 24, 2019 • 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.



*Festival of Lights* © 2016 John August Swanson | Eyekons



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

**Making God's Love Visible**

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

\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

**Hearing-assistance devices** and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

**Cover Art:** John August Swanson makes his home in Los Angeles, where he was born in 1938. His art is about “bringing stories to life,” reflective of the gift of storytelling he inherited from his Mexican mother and Swedish father. Much of his art is inspired by Bible stories. His creative, visual re-telling of these ancient tales enables us to see them with new eyes and rediscover their power and meaning for our own lives.

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Fantasy on Kingsfold*  
Sanctus Ringers

arr. H. Dean Wagner

### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Sanderford (9:30)  
Rev. McGowan (11:00)

### FAITH IN ACTION

*Family to Family Christmas*

Julie Morrison (9:30)  
Sarah Glinka (11:00)

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 107, adapted

One: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good—

**All: whose steadfast love endures forever!**

One: Let those whom God has redeemed say so—

**All: let those who have been gathered together give thanks!**

One: Even those who lost their way, those who wandered in deserts,

**All: let them give thanks, for God has led them back.**

One: Even those whose hunger and thirst caused them anguish,

**All: let them rejoice and be satisfied in God's bounty.**

One: Whoever is wise, let them give heed to these things—

**All: let us consider the steadfast love of the Lord.**

### \* HYMN 645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Though sometimes we wander in a wilderness of our own making,  
or suffer in exile from our best selves,**

**O God, you have met us in the midst of our estrangement,  
fed us with the bread of hope and healed us with the balm of love.**

**We bring before you here those deeds and memories,  
thoughts and feelings which have diminished us and hindered you.**

**Look graciously, we pray, upon all that we have cause to regret,  
and lift from our hearts the burden of having been less  
than you have shown us, in Jesus Christ, that we can be...**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### KYRIE

Lee Afdahl

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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

**Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin.  
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art; freely let me take of thee.  
Spring thou up within my heart. Rise to all eternity.**

*This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 440, Jesus, Lover of My Soul (ABERYSTWYTH)*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Monty Brower (9:30)  
Mary McKeever (11:00)

### OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 26:1–11

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

### ANTHEM

*Christus Paradox*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Alfred Fedak

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.

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

*Children through grade five are invited forward.*

### NEW TESTAMENT READING John 6:25 –35

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

### SERMON

*How We Got to Where We Are*

Rev. Dr. Spalding

## RESPONDING

### \* HYMN 652

*A Grateful Heart*

ROCKINGHAM

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Johnson (9:30)  
Rev. Rogers (11:00)

### The Passing of Christ's

**Peace** follows the Assurance of God's Forgiveness. The significance of its placement after the confession sequence and God's forgiveness is that it completes the theme of reconciliation by moving toward the exchange of reconciling words and gestures among the people of God.

### Prayer for Illumination

is a prayer that is offered before the scriptures are read, and before a sermon is preached. This prayer asks that the Holy Spirit open our minds and our hearts to the Word so that we may not only hear, but understand and believe.

**During the offering, take a minute to sign the friendship pads found in each pew.**

If you are visiting with us, please leave your contact information so that we can reach out to you! Newcomers and regulars alike can see who is sitting around them and greet each other by name. By signing in, you help us build stronger community connections at First Presbyterian.

**The Prayers of the People** should include prayers for the church universal, the world and the nation, those in leadership, the community, persons in distressing circumstances and those with special needs. The Lord's Prayer concludes the Prayers of the People.

**Offertory**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Sanctus Ringers

**\* Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

*This is Hymn 609, Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow.*

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (9:30/11:00)**

*To preserve a spirit of worship, we ask that any photos be taken after the service.*

Brent and Ashley Bowles present their daughter, Hannah Elizabeth Bowles, born June 3, 2019, for baptism at 9:30. Matt and Kelly Cameron present their daughter, Isla Joyce Cameron, born April 8, 2019, for baptism at 11:00.

**\* Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving over the Water and Baptism**

**Hymn 491**

*You Have Put On Christ*

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

**You have put on Christ; in Christ you have been baptized.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**We have put on Christ; in Christ we have been baptized.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Ruhf (11:00)

**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 643**                      *Now Thank We All Our God*                      NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT  
*Please sing stanzas 1 and 2.*

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

*This is stanza 3 of Hymn 643, Now Thank We All Our God*

\* **POSTLUDE**                      *Now Thank We All Our God*                      S. Karg-Elert

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## 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 is online at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org). **If you have questions, please visit the Welcome Center, just outside the Social Hall.** Greeting you there today are Brian Williams and Rob Bauman. **The Church Office** is staffed by Robin Agnew. **Greeters** are Gail Grady and Barb and Dick Carlisle (9:30) and Carole and George Hendrickson and Marge Higley (11:00). **Sound system volunteers** are Rol Kibler (9:30) and Roger Hsiao (11:00). **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head), Nancy Fox, and Jean Song (8:00); Bill Austin (head), Len Rezmierski (captain), Dean Gilchrist, Joe Schmidt, Beth Sanderford, Keith Molin, Elsa and Dick Stuber, and Karla Olson-Belfi (9:30); and Bill Austin (head), Carter Hodgson (captain), Peggy Hodgson, Barry and Jeanette Swartz, and Joe and Karen Cox (11:00). **The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 and 11:00 services. **Prayer team volunteers** are Carol Fletcher and Jeanette Kibler (9:30) and Carole Hendrickson (11:00). Following the 8:00 service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "Either worrying drives out prayer, or prayer drives out worrying." – D. A. Carson

**Musical leadership** includes Clayton Farmer, pianist (8:00); and Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir and Brent Ivey, organist (9:30/11:00).

**Acolytes** include Aidan and Chloe Majorprice and Leo and Andrew McInchak.

**Chancel flowers** are given in loving memory of her dear sister Beatriz Ramirez, by Ligia Reynolds.

## 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](http://www.waamradio.com)).

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

### **Adult Education Opportunities:**

9:30 a.m. **The Bible @ 9:30** in the French Room.

**First Friends** meets in Monteith Hall where Gale and Don Redding discuss their recent trip to Israel.

11:00 a.m. **Exploring the Faith** meets in Monteith Hall for a special presentation by Sarah Thornburg, Executive Director of Friends Indeed, and Suzanne Van Dam, Circles Coordinator.

### **Children's Ministry Opportunities:**

9:30 a.m. **Sunday School classes** for crib through fifth graders

10:30 a.m. **Children's Choir**

11:00 a.m. **Childcare** available for crib through Kindergarten

### **Youth Ministry Opportunities:**

9:15 a.m. **Munch & Mingle** in the Lower Level hallway

9:30 a.m. **Sunday School**

**An Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration** is today, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road). Donations will be accepted for the Interfaith Round Table, and non-perishable food will be given to help those in need in our community.

**T2A2—Twenties and Thirties of Ann Arbor**—invites the participation of all young adults looking to build community. **T2A2 Friendsgiving is at 5:00 p.m.** Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish as we gather to celebrate, give thanks, and share a meal together at Chris Wahl's home. This will replace small group for the evening. Contact Haley Brown (habrown989@gmail.com), Chris Wahl (cgwahl@umich.edu), or Rev. Ruhf for more information about this and other T2A2 opportunities.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated next Sunday and **Communion Food Collection** is during all three services. 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 Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor.

**Make God's Love Visible Stewardship Update:** As of November 18, 403 pledges totaling \$1,361,281 have been received. This represents 75.6% of our \$1,800,000 goal. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help as we plan the 2020 budget. Thank you for all you do to *Make God's Love Visible* through the ministries of First Pres!

**Did you miss the Mission Bazaar last Sunday**, or think of someone else who could use a meaningful gift? Sales of shares to benefit many of our mission programs as well as Fair Trade items are available online through December 15.

**Volunteer for the Pancake Supper** serving 100+ College Students on Wednesday, December 11, from 10:00 p.m. to Midnight. We need volunteers the week before to post signage, and the day of the event to setup, cook, and cleanup. Sign up online or contact Rev. McGowan to volunteer.

**A cancer conversation group** meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, in Room LL-1. Contact Rev. Rogers for more information, or just show up. If you have cancer, have had cancer, are caring for others, or just need a safe place to talk about your experiences and walk with others, join us.

**Welcome College Students!** Our Campus Ministry, UKirk@UMich, welcomes you to College Lunch on Sundays following the 11:00 a.m. service, coffee breaks during the week, and other fellowship opportunities. Follow us on Instagram @UKirkUMich for future events and past photos. Contact our Campus Pastor, Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org), for more information.

**Mature Singles** meet this Friday, November 29, at Panda House, 229 N. Maple Road, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

**Join the Rotating Shelter Leadership Team!** Each January, for two weeks, we host our Rotating Shelter to house up to 25 men who otherwise would be out in the cold. They are screened by our friends at Delonis, and then sleep in our Social Hall from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. We serve them hot food and provide other snacks and treats to help them feel warm, welcome, and as comfortable as possible. It takes over 100 volunteers to make these two weeks happen. We are looking for a few members to add to the Leadership Team. If you have time and energy to give, and love serving others, contact Rev. Rogers or the Church Office.

**Volunteers are needed for First Pres' fall work days for Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley.** Eight to twelve volunteers are needed per day for the deconstruction phase of our House of Faith, November 22 and 23 and December 6 and 7. The house is located at 792 Ford Boulevard in Ypsilanti. Volunteers must register and complete an online waiver by the Monday before your work day (only one waiver necessary per calendar year). Please arrive on site by 9:00 a.m. for safety and project instruction. More information may be found at [www.h4h.org/houseoffaith](http://www.h4h.org/houseoffaith).

**Advent is Coming!** Mark your calendars and await further information on these and numerous other opportunities:

**Christmas Wreaths** will be sold by members of Boy Scout Troop 7 during Coffee Hour today and December 1. Wreaths are handmade from fresh greens and are available in two sizes: a 22" wreath is \$35 and a 28" wreath is \$45.

#### **Peace Neighborhood Center Toy Drive**

Help Make God's Love Visible this holiday season at Peace Neighborhood Center by participating in their Holiday Toy Drive.

**Donate December 1-15** - NEW toys, children's coats, hats and mittens. Look for Collection boxes throughout the church.

**Volunteer December 20-23** - Youth (with parents) and adults are needed for two-hour blocks to sort and stock toy donations, and help families shop.

Contact Rev. Khayla Johnson [kjohnson@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:kjohnson@firstpresbyterian.org). to sign up!

**Advent Happening** is Saturday, December 7, in the Social Hall. Join us for crafts, cookie decorating, candle making, and more! Child care is provided for children ages 3 and younger, by reservation, for those who wish. Contact Beca Torres-Davenport if you are interested in hosting a table.

**A StorySlam and Strolling Reception** is December 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Enjoy stories of the season and the singing of Christmas carols in this special holiday presentation. The StorySlam will be followed by a reception held throughout the building. Listen to special musical performances and enjoy therapy dogs, nibbles, and other festivities.

**Children ages 3 and up are invited to be part of the Nativity Worship Service on Christmas Eve** at 3:00 p.m. Parents may sign up their children at the information meeting on Sunday, December 8, at 11:00 a.m., in the Lewis Room, or online.

**Donate a poinsettia** to beautify our worship on December 15 in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are \$18 and can be ordered until noon on Monday, December 9. After we enjoy their beauty in worship, Deacons will deliver poinsettias to those in our congregation who are in life-care residences, grieving, recovering, or dealing with special circumstances.

**Stephen Ministry of Care may be calling you.** A consortium of churches in Washtenaw County has come together to offer training to those who feel called to serve as a Stephen Minister and are approved by their congregations. It is a deeply meaningful ministry of lay pastoral care. While God is the cure-giver, Stephen Ministers are the caregivers. Find out more on our website or contact Rev. Rogers to learn more.

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Liz Call-Boyce, Finance Assistant

Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister

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 Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator

Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families

Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Merry Muilenberg, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator

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



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