# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER CONFIRMATION SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021



*P-salm 23* Joel Schoon-Tanis



As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.



# **GATHERING**

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 those parts of the service printed in **bold**. It is not yet safe to sing together as a congregation. (The choral ensemble sings with special singers' masks.) As you listen to the hymns and responses, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the texts.

#### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION Congregational Nominating Committee

Katie Parker

Joel Martinson

**OPENING VOLUNTARY** Aria on a Chaconne

Yuki Harding, Oboe

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Children of God:
All: this is what we are.
One: People of God:
All: this is who we are.

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good;

All: the love of God is now and forever. Let us worship!

\* HYMN 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN This hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin. As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good Shepherd God,

we confess that we are in danger of becoming a tearless people.

On some days, we imitate a smiling society and gloss over

the hurt, the oppression, and the chaos of this earth.

At other times, we become caustic, cynical, or despairing.

Truth be told, we are in danger of being a blindhearted people.

But have we not seen? Have we not heard?

You, O Lord, are the everlasting God,

our Creator to the ends of the earth.

And you have created us for covenant keeping.

You have created us for resurrection spotting.

You have created us to live your Easter good news

with everything we've got. So forgive us.

Forgive us and help us live as a people shaped by

your voice, your hope, and your reign.

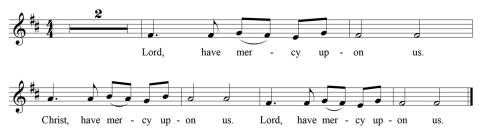
Give us whatever courage we need to step out and follow.

We pray in the name of our risen Savior...

(Continue to offer prayers in silence.)

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





#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \* PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

As you listen to the response, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

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

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 23

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

**SERMON** 

Grassy Meadows and Dark Valleys

# 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

#### **CONFIRMATION AFFIRMATION**

#### Laying on of Shawls

# \* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #21

Question:

What is true faith?

Answer:

True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

\* HYMN 803 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need RESIGNATION This hymn is found on the next page of this bulletin. As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

#### **OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Offertory** The Lord Is My Shepherd John Rutter Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Catherine Moore, Tyrese Byrd, David Magumba, Benton DeGroot, Elijah Emmons

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

For thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me.

Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

# \*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

As you listen to the response, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below. 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.

**During the Laying on** of Shawls you'll see the sacred ritual of blessing as our Confirmands are blessed with prayer shawls draped over them by their parents as they each heard the words, "vou are a blessed child of God. Welcome to the family of faith and the membership of this church." These prayer shawls were knitted and held by the prayers of the Knit Night group here at First Pres.

**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.



# \* **HYMN 803** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION *As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.*

# Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshiping 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/2Rlig2I



# **SENDING**



#### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fanfares

Edwin T. Childs

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

#### **Eastertide at First Pres - Held By Baptism**

Jesus himself was baptized by John in the Jordan River – but his only mention of baptism was in his final appearance in the Gospel of Matthew (28:19–20): "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Maybe one sign of the holiness of what we've come to call a sacrament is that its assurance of God's company in our lives touches us on a level deeper than words. "And remember," Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the end of time."

For us, baptism is foundational to the family of God: a mark of grace upon each life touched by the waters, a sign of welcome into beloved community. At First Pres this spring, the season of Eastertide will be bracketed by celebrations of this most joyful sacrament: with the Glanda family on April 11, and the Stelter family on May 23. These weeks will help us, each and all, to feel held by grace in the Spirited company of the One who is with us always and forever as we consider how to be faithful to our mission to "make God's love visible" in our community and in the world.



Baptism by Fulvia Prundeanu

A note from the artist: "I am a traveler through the world of art. Each of my pieces is a snapshot of my young journey, a colorful celebration of life's many blessings. May *Baptism* bring you all peace and joy."

**Liturgy notes:** Today's Call to Worship is from *Fire and Bread: Resources from Easter Day to Trinity Sunday,* Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Scotland. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a poem by Ann Weems entitled "In Search of New Resurrections" in *Kneeling in Jerusalem*.

**Confirmation Class of 2021:** Graham Corey, Hadley Feyen, Chloe Majorprice, Brianna McLaughlin, Madeline Montgomery, Maverick Musser, Anna Schneider, Molly Schneidewind, and Owen Smith

**Leaders of Worship:** Welcome – Andrew Frazier; Liturgists – Khayla Johnson and Evans McGowan; Scripture Reader – Jensen Wood; Children's Message – Beca Torres-Davenport and Melissa Anne Rogers; Preacher – Mark Mares; Vocalists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Catherine Moore, Molly Schwall, David Magumba, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, Elijah Emmons, and Al Williams; Guest Organist – Brent Ivey; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Video Production – Bill Hall and Sean Hoskins; Sound Production – Bryan Magnuson

**Chancel flowers** are given in loving memory of Jim Wheaton by his wife Julie.

**A pink rosebud** celebrates the birth of Saoirse Lucy Mae Gulick born to Galen and Annie Gulick, on April 5, 2021, in Chicago. First-time grandmother is Lynne Gulick.

**Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour** immediately following the Closing Voluntary today. Please join us around 10:30 a.m., via Zoom at <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/329423603">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/329423603</a>. **Today's conversation topic is:** What question(s) of faith have you returned to over the years, perhaps even from when you were young? What has been your internal conversation?

"Tell Me More," a monthly opportunity for our guests and visitors to learn more as we answer your questions about First Pres, is offered today. Rev. Rogers leads this brief time of conversation where you can ask anything. Find out about our church, our programs, our vision, our time of transition, our theology, history, and more on the fourth Sunday of each month at noon! Join us today at noon via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188882448).

### **ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**First Friends** meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175) for a discussion on "What Brings You Joy: 50 Ways to Add Joy to Your Day." and "Happiness is all in your mind."

**Exploring the Faith** meets today at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom (<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133</a>). Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers will share insights on communicating with compassion from her longtime role as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life. Jane Dutton will share insights from her studies of how leaders communicate compassion.

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

# **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport (<u>btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org</u>), Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families.

**The Children's Choir** meets virtually today, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (<a href="mailto:kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org">kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org</a>) or Rev. Mares (<a href="mailto:kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org">kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org</a>) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate.

**All children's faith formation classes** meet today 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 (<u>mmares@firstpresbyterian.org</u>.), Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time.

**All youth faith formation classes** meet today 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.

**High School students** meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events as we take time thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith forms 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 and High School groups for conversations. Contact Pastor Mark for more information. All are welcome.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A new member class will be held next Sunday, May 2, 11:00 –12:30, online. Please join us if you are interested in learning about First Pres and moving to join either as a full member or an affiliate member (a category for those whose primary membership is still held by another church). Whoever you are, you already belong! We hope you will find a deeper connection with our whole congregation, and a vibrant, life-giving faith here at First Pres. The zoom link is: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87356165116">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87356165116</a>.

**The prayer team** meets Monday mornings via Zoom (<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357</a>) 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.

A Virtual Art Exhibit by Benjamin Winans is available at www.benjaminwinans.weebly.com.

**Reopening Update:** In-Person Worship Attendance has been temporarily suspended. The Reopening Recommendations Work Group (RRWG) made this decision "In solidarity with the broader community, and at the request of the governor and recommendation of the CDC." The RRWG will continue to work closely with the Session and our staff to ensure the safety of all our members, while also continuing to offer meaningful worship and other opportunities to connect with each other as the body of Christ. Please contact Rev. McGowan or RRWG Co-Chair Nancy Janz Clark if you have questions.

**Greetings, College Students!** We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m., via Zoom, there are virtual college lunches. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

The next Taizé Prayer Service is Tuesday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

**God Is In the Dirt!** The kitchen at Cass Community Social Services in Detroit serves over one million meals to hungry and sometimes forgotten people. First Pres plants and maintains a vegetable garden just outside the kitchen door at Cass annually. Help prepare and plant this year's garden on Saturday, May 1 and Saturday, May 15. Meet at First Pres at 8:30 a.m. to participate in this Covid-safe project. Bring gloves, gardening tools, and drinking water. We'll return to Ann Arbor about 12:30 p.m. Contact Beth Sanderford (beth.sanderford@gmail.com) or Rev. Sanderford (isanderford@firstpresbyterian.org) with questions or to sign up.

**Mature Ministries in May:** Join us on Thursday, May 13, at 12:00 p.m., for a (Virtual) Visit to Mackinac Island! Our presentation is entitled: "From Furs to Fudge: Mackinac's Rich History." In this illustrated presentation, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director Emeritus Phil Porter will provide a lively overview of Mackinac Island's rich and diverse history from the earliest settlers through the modern fudge makers. The Zoom link is available by contacting Rev. Rogers or Brad Taylor.

**First Pres women are pilgrimaging in 2022!** If you are interested in walking the Northumberland Way in England, and having a spiritual experience as a group of women while walking the beautiful, ancient route, contact Rev. Rogers for more information. Dates are TBD, but approximately May 15–28. Sign up at <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-pilgrimage">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-pilgrimage</a>. Deposits are fully refundable for now.

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

**A Virtual Hymn-Sing** by the Sanctus Ringers, Chancel Choir, and FPC Section Leaders is available on YouTube and Facebook. (https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-hymn-sing)

**Your Pastor Nominating Committee** is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. We meet weekly and can be reached at <a href="mailto:pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org">pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org</a>. Information about our search is available at: <a href="https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian">https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian</a>

**First Pres strives to be as diverse as God's kingdom, and as wide and hospitable as the Spirit's embrace.** Here, we don't all look, act, or pray alike. God knows we do not all think alike. We Presbyterians do not read the Bible the same way. Our questions are different, our burdens are diverse, and our aspirations are distinct. But every Sunday, we worship as one, unified by the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We worship a living God who calls us to love and support one another. Together we can do marvelous things – and grow closer to God and one another along the way. Come visit us – everyone is welcome! If you are new to us, we invite you to visit and explore our many programs and service opportunities.

**Did you know?** There are two unisex bathrooms available in our building. One is on the second floor, near the kitchenette and one is on the Lower Level, just inside the maintenance wing.

Share your talent at the All-Church Variety Show on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Your act must be three minutes or less. You may record your act or talent from home or schedule a time to record yourself in the Sanctuary. Is there an act you could perform with members of your family? Contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. Videos must be submitted by May 12.



**Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of April** will benefit Community Action Network (C.A.N.). If you are donating by check, please make it payble to First Presbyterian Church, noting the recipient of your contribution on the memo line. Checks and food may be dropped off at church Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Checks may be mailed to the church to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller.

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

**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.

### **2022 Nominations for Church Leadership**

The 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee is tasked with, and has begun to discern, through recommendations and the power of the Holy Spirit, whom God calls to serve First Pres as Elders, Deacons and Congregational Nominating Committee members, with terms beginning in January of 2022. We humbly seek insight and help from congregation members to identify potential church leaders. We seek to represent the diversity of our congregation in ages, stages of faith development, ethnicity/race, gender and sexual orientation.

For those who may be interested and want more information to assist in their decision to suggest members for consideration, Elder and Deacon job descriptions are found at <a href="https://www.firstpresbyterian.org">www.firstpresbyterian.org</a>. Those who are selected will receive training at times TBD, beginning in September, whether virtually or in person, and based upon the status of Covid-19 at that time.

According to the *Book of Order*, those called to these ministries should be persons of faith, discipleship, and love of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Those suggested should be members of at least two years, and have given of their time, talent, and if possible, their financial means in some way, at least in the few years prior to election. The Congregational Meeting for election will be in September of 2021. The terms begin in January of 2022 and are:

- Three years for Elders and Deacons
- Two years for members of the Congregational Nominating Committee

Please submit suggestions for these important positions by May 13 in care of the Congregational Nominating Committee by mail (1432 Washtenaw Ave. A2 48104); by email (CNC@firstpresbyterian.org), or by dropoff in person to the church in the CNC box in the Welcome Center, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Suggested members should have agreed to have their name submitted. Please indicate your name, their name, and the position, and why you are submitting the name of this person, and the qualities that you believe make this member a good candidate.

If you have further questions, please contact Chairperson, Katie Parker, Elder (734-218-0033; mgobluebarn47@yahoo.com), or any of the CNC members noted below. We are all happy to speak with you about your questions.

#### Members of the CNC are:

Becky Gaffney, Deacon (734-474-1472; bandbgaffney@gmail.com)

Downs Herold, former Deacon and Elder (734-665-2588; jdherold@comcast.net)

John LeDuc, Deacon (734-846-2910; john@jleduc.com)

Pat Liljestrand, former Deacon and Elder (734-455-3441; <a href="mailto:lilypat2@gmail.com">lilypat2@gmail.com</a>)

Bill McPherson, Elder (734-604-2504; <a href="wbmcpherson@comcast.net">wbmcpherson@comcast.net</a>)

Cassee Stem, T2A2 (269-921-9218 (evenings); <a href="mailto:cassee.stem@gmail.com">cassee.stem@gmail.com</a>)

Jeff Teucke, Elder (201-709-2772; <u>iteucke1@gmail.com</u>)

Elisabeth VanVliet, T2A2& Cong Life (614-565-7146 (evenings); <a href="mailto:evenings">evanvliet88@gmail.com</a>)

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Barbara DeLancey, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator

J. P. DiMaggio, Interim Bridge Administrator

Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister

Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Coordinator

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

David Hufford, Organist

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

Stacey Pakela, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

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

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts

Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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