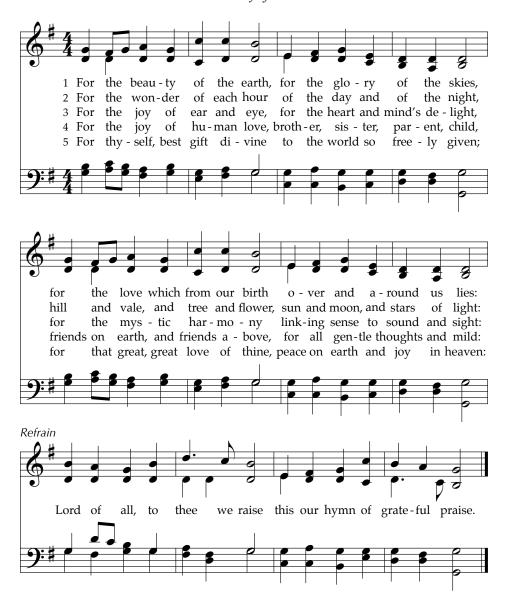
# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 7, 2021



Cleansing the Temple Lucinda Naylor





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 season of Lent

is often marked by a journey: our traveling from the mountaintop of transfiguration back into the treacherous terrain leading to Holy Week and Easter. Turning to the cross leads us to reflect, remember, repent, and then reclaim our identity as children of God. We welcome you as you listen for God's invitation in your life.

## **GATHERING**

### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

#### **OPENING VOLUNTARY**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Heaven is declaring God's glory;

All: the sky proclaiming God's handiwork.
One: One day gushes the news to the next,

All: and one night informs the other what needs to be known.

One: There is no speech, there are no words; All: their voices cannot be heard by us.

One: Yet their sound extends throughout the world; All: their words reach the ends of the earth!

**HYMN 14** For the Beauty of the Earth

This hymn is found on the preceding pages of this bulletin.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it. Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willingly ignoring your way. Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships; with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors. Help us speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle and destroy. Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out of Egypt, and has brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace. In Christ's name we pray...

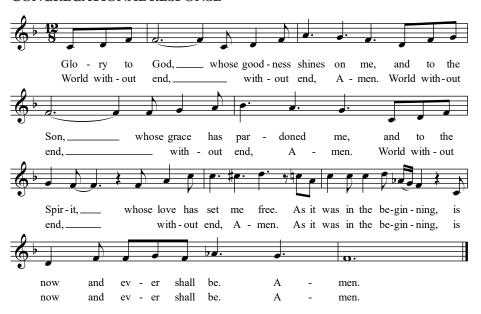
**SILENT PRAYER** 

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

DIX

#### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**



This is Hymn 582, Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (GLORY TO GOD).

# PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 19

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** John 2:13–22

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

### **SERMON**

## 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 AND SEALING

**HYMN 681** 

This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

NUN DANKET ALL' UND BRINGET EHR'



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

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**Offertory** The Heavens Are Telling

F.J. Haydn

Soloists: Imani Mchunu, David Magumba, Benton DeGroot

The heavens are telling the glory of God,

The wonder of God's work displays the firmament.

To day that is coming speaks it the day,

The night that is gone to following night.

In all the lands resounds the word,

Never unperceived, ever understood.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,

The wonder of God's work displays the firmament.

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.



## During his ministry, Jesus shared meals as a sign of community and acceptance. As we gather for communion, know that you are welcome in this community and accepted at Christ's table.

"As this broken bread scattered on the mountains was gathered and became one, so too, may your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom." – The Didache, one of the earliest Christian texts.

The Lord's Prayer is the form of Christian practice that, for many, connects Jesus most directly to his followers. It's included in 3 of the 4 gospels – but with slight differences. It's been translated into countless languages and adapted into the devotions of many cultures. To honor the diversity of the Christian family through time and across cultures (and to remind ourselves that the English words we know so well are not what came out of Jesus's mouth!), we'll be using different versions of the Lord's Prayer each week during Lent. This week's adaptation is by Lyn Seils Robertson. (We'll return to our most familiar version on Easter.)

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation to the Lord's Table

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

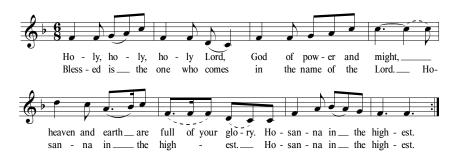
All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Our Father/Mother who art in heaven,

Our Creator, you are all around us and within us.

Hallowed be thy name.

We praise you with many different names.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.

Help us live as we understand we should from knowing you in harmony and connectedness with each other,

on earth as it is in heaven.

With all creatures of the earth, and with the earth and the universe itself.

Give us this day our daily bread,

Help us to use your resources wisely so that we might be sustained.

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Help us take responsibility when we fail to live harmoniously, and help us understand and forgive when others let us down.

And lead us not into temptation,

Let us know you well enough that we are not tempted to live outside of your love.

but deliver us from evil,

and empower us to work together to overcome evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

We believe that you created the world and that you will be all around us and within us forever. Amen.

**Words of Institution** 

**Communion of the People** 

**Communion Music** 

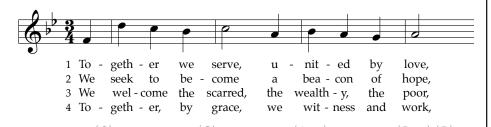
**Prayer after Communion** 

## **SENDING**



## Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO





lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. bus - y, the lone - ly, all who need the and care. Je - sus, re - mem - ber - ing in whom we grow strong.





#### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

# 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

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## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

#### LENT '21 - GIVEN BACK

Lent is the name we give to our Christian journey through the dark, cold days of winter and the long, long wait for spring. It's a season that can try one's patience and stir one's restlessness. So maybe it's not surprising that the spiritual practices we associate with the season are renunciation and repentance. The mood of austerity seems well-tuned particularly to this year when we've had so much taken from us: it seems like we've already given up a lot as we embark on the pilgrimage of Lent this year.

But...

The journey itself is powered, isn't it, by our being drawn toward a God who fills us – who welcomes us – who believes in us! It's because we long to be closer to God, closer to each other, closer to our best self, that we follow where Jesus leads. Day by day we're being given love, given life, offered a vision of right relationship by the one who says, "Come unto me" – the one who says, "Love one another as I have loved you" – the one who says, "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly."



The Christian journey is not so much about taking stock of what we need to give up – it's about what has been given back! And about what we, in turn, give back.

So Lent at First Pres this year will give us opportunities to consider what we've been given back by the God who calls us forward, onward in spite of the dark and cold and uncertainty and, even, the struggle of our time. And, having been given back a sense of invitation into God's embrace, we'll find that we're motivated, in turn, to give back: to live with compassion, to advocate for justice, to share hope and joy.

**Leaders of Worship:** Welcome – Andrew Frazier; Liturgists – Melissa Anne Rogers and Mark Mares; Scripture Reader – Laura Stahl; Children's Message – Evans McGowan and Jay Sanderford; Preacher – Khayla Johnson; Vocalists – Leslie Smith, Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, David Magumba, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler; Ushers – Ken, Ali, and Ava Westfall, Holly Majorprice, and Carol and Paul Smith

**Today is Communion Sunday.** As we come to the Lord's Table to be fed and nurtured in our faith, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of February will be overseen by Presbyterian Women. Financial contributions and food donations will be directed to Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti.

**Chancel flowers** are given in in celebration of the life of Marc Olson by Mary Jane Chase; and in loving memory of Young S. Kim by Pauline McLaughlin.

**Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday** immediately following the Closing Voluntary. **Our conversation prompt:** Today is a "Fast-Track" joining day so new members can join the church. When did you join? How was your experience? What do you wish you'd known, or asked, or understood better at the time you joined? If you haven't joined, what would you like to know about First Pres or the joining process? Enter Coffee Hour by clicking <a href="https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour">https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour</a>.

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

**Flowers to Beautify our Easter Worship.** Flowers are \$18 each and may be ordered in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor or recognition of someone still living. All flowers will be delivered by our deacons to selected church members who are experiencing health issues, other struggles, or the recent loss of a loved one. Orders may be made online or by contacting the Church Office (662-4466) **by Thursday, March 25**. A list of honorees will appear in the Easter bulletin.

**Lenten Study Series: Giving Back Compassion.** Drawing from Scripture and Henri Nouwen's *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*, we will take a critical look at ourselves and explore the various ways Jesus is calling us to lives of compassion. Join us in small groups throughout the week where participants gather by Zoom to explore compassion in our lives, and/or on Sunday mornings where participants, led by church pastors, will explore the meaning of compassion in our lives and engage in spiritual practices together. For more information check our website or contact the Church Office.

**Lenten Devotionals.** We hope you are receiving the daily Lenten email devotional written by our members. If you are not, please sign up online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

A virtual Peeps & Pizza party is March 20. More information is available on our website or by contacting Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry.

## More Information Is Coming Soon About These Opportunities:

- Holy Week Services
- Easter Sunday Sanctuary Stroll

#### A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK DURING LENT

#### **Donate Bed Sheets**

Friends in Deed is seeking bed sheet donations, either new or old sheets in good, clean condition. Twin and queen sizes are in particular demand. The organization provides beds and bedding for low income people in Washtenaw County. Donations can be dropped off at the Friends In Deed office (1196 Ecorse Road, Ypsilanti), Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and at First Pres. You may put sheets in the donation bins by the door near the Memorial Garden Entrance, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### Transport Food to Cass in Detroit

Each week our First Pres Feeding Our Neighbors Program reclaims and repurposes good-quality food from area schools and restaurants and transports it to feeding sites in Ypsilanti and Detroit. The majority of this food goes to Cass Community Social Services in Detroit where it is put to immediate use. Volunteers with vans, minivans, and SUVs are needed on Tuesday and Friday mornings to assist and to drive this valuable food to Detroit. Contact Don Redding (734-276-8426) or Rev. Jay Sanderford (jsanderford@firstpresbyterian. org or 434-466-1306) for more information.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fast Track to Membership is TODAY. You already belong, of course — for all are welcome at First Pres, and membership is not required to participate in our ministries. However, by becoming a member formally, you have voice and vote in congregational meetings, and express to us your commitment to First Pres to be an active part. Your joining allows us to support you more fully and help you stay engaged and grow in faith. The first step toward membership is to attend today's Fast Track meeting where you will get to know a few of our elders and staff. May the Spirit move you there! Join us today at noon via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/i/84143125355).

**Session has called a special Congregational Meeting** for Sunday, March 14, 2021, immediately following the conclusion of the 9:30 a.m. service, for the purpose of electing Elders to fill two unexpired terms on Session (classes of 2021 and 2022) and two unexpired terms on the CNC for said classes.

**Learn about the Gift of Acknowledgement.** The Stephen Ministers invite you to join them tomorrow, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom (<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89733372207">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89733372207</a>) for a a special program, "The Gift of Acknowledgement" with Deb Campbell, Certified Life Coach.

Interim Organist Paul Haebig's last day with us will be Easter Sunday, April 4. Paul will be honored at Coffee Hour on Palm Sunday, March 28. Contributions toward a special gift for Paul 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.

**Reopening Update:** We are pleased to announce LiveStreaming is here! Look for sign-ups for in-person worship as soon as Sunday mornings in March. Please see our new easy-to-view Reopening Grid, now updated for funerals and weddings. We are currently in Phase II: Small Groups. As the Covid-19 vaccines become more readily available, the RRWG recommends consulting with your healthcare professional about getting vaccinated as soon as possible. Stay tuned for further updates here and on our website. Please contact Rev. McGowan if you have any questions.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**Visit our Virtual Art Exhibit "For the Beauty of the Earth"** by clicking <u>www.fboe.weebly.com</u>. The photography is by Judy Kisla of Atlanta, Georgia. The exhibit closes March 14.

**Ministry of Music:** If you would like to participate in the Chancel Choir's virtual anthems, contact Dave VanderMeer for more information: <a href="mailto:dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org">dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org</a>. All are welcome to participate!

**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.

**A Virtual Hymn-Sing** by the Sanctus Ringers, Chancel Choir, and FPC Section Leaders will be available on YouTube and Facebook beginning March 1.

The First Pres ministry to the residents at Alpha House, a shelter for children and parents who are experiencing homelessness, continues March 22–31. For more information, you may contact Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com or 734-646-6093); Anne Gere (argere@umich.edu or 734-668-8352); Ruth Jensen (ruthannjensen@gmail.com or 734-332-0323); or Paula Doering (paulahdoering@gmail.com or 734-904-8068). Sign up online (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha5).

**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>

"Noon Conversations" Join in conversation with First Pres member Deborah Campbell on Wednesday, March 17, at noon, via Zoom (<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82408747923">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82408747923</a>). This month's focus is on renewal as part of an exploration of the question, "What Matters Most?"

**Mature Ministries in March.** Join us on Thursday, March 11, at Noon, for our monthly Lunch & Learn. First Pres member Ginny Rezmierski will speak to us about bullying in its various forms including sexual harassment, developmental stages where power is the focus and how children, youth and adults can get stuck focused on power over others. Contact Rev. Rogers for the Zoom link!

The First Pres ministry to the residents at Alpha House, a shelter for children and parents who are experiencing homelessness, continues March 22–31. For more information, you may contact Gail Einhaus (gail.einhaus@gmail.com or 734-646-6093); Anne Gere (argere@umich.edu or 734-668-8352); Ruth Jensen (ruthannjensen@gmail.com or 734-332-0323); or Paula Doering (paulahdoering@gmail.com or 734-904-8068). Sign up online ( https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha5).

## **ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**First Friends** meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175</a>) to discuss wind energy for sculpture and electricity.

**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>). for a discussion on spiritual practices led by Rev. Frazier.

**Bible Study @ 5** meets today via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620) 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.

**Today is Family Sunday.** Christian Formation classes for children and youth do not meet on Family Sundays and the Children's Choir does not rehearse.

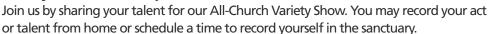
## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

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.

**Today is Family Sunday.** Christian Formation classes for children and youth do not meet on Family Sundays and the Children's Choir does not rehearse.

**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!

## All-Church Variety Show Sunday, March 21 – 6:30 p.m.





What Should My Act Be? Well... What are you good at? What makes you happy and confident? Is there an act you could perform with members of your family? Maybe it's singing, playing an instrument, dancing, reciting poetry, sharing a piece of visual art you have created, performing comedy, juggling, performing gymnastics – you name it. Variety makes the show...well, a Variety Show!

How Long Can My Act Take? Your act must be three minutes or less! If your performance is more than three minutes, you may be asked to shorten it or, if that is not possible, to choose something else.

What if I have more questions? Please contact Dave VanderMeer: dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org

#### 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

Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

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

Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim 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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