

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 24, 2021

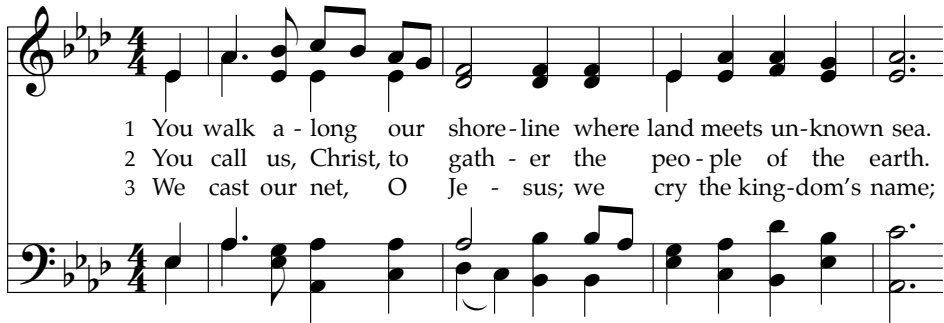


Calling Disciples by He Qi

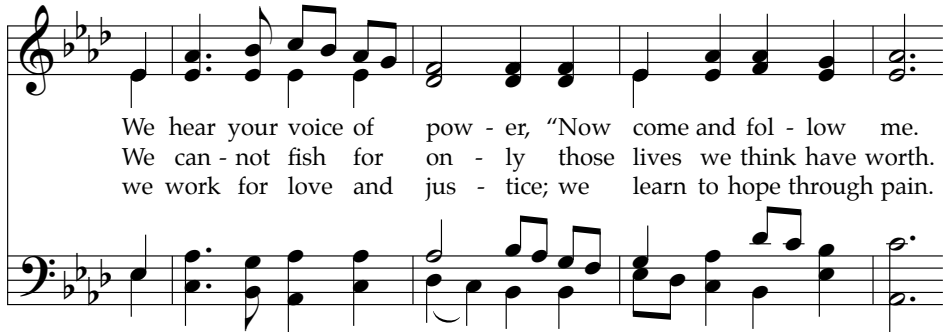


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

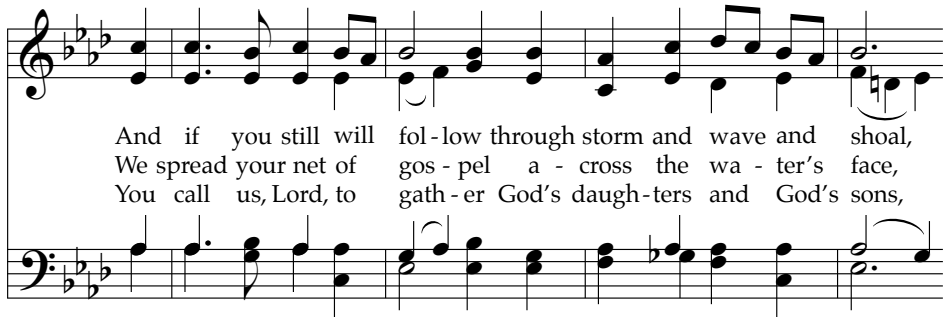
Making God's Love Visible



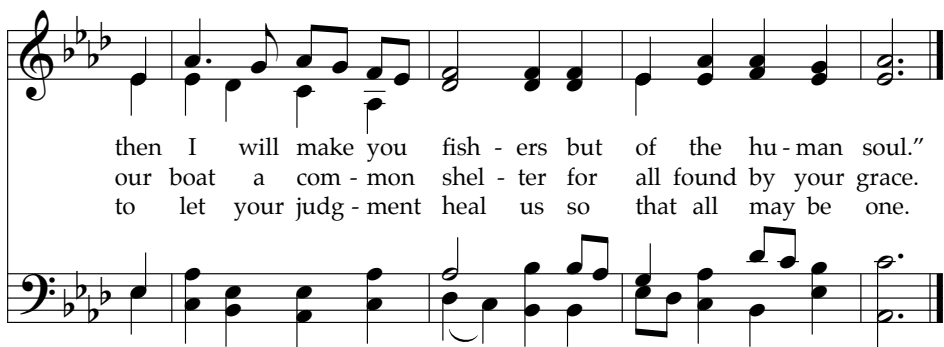
1 You walk a - long our shore-line where land meets un-known sea.
 2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
 3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we cry the king-dom's name;



We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth.
 we work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain.



And if you still will fol-low through storm and wave and shoal,
 We spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
 You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh-ters and God's sons,



then I will make you fish - ers but of the hu - man soul."
 our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
 to let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

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**.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Adagio from *Miniature Suite*

Nancy Plummer Faxon

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 16)

One: Protect me, O God – for in You I take refuge.

All: I say to the Lord, “You are my God, my only source of good.

One: You are my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.”

All: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel and instructs my heart.

One: I keep the Lord ever before me, always at hand; I shall not be moved.

All: Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices, my body rests secure.

One: For You do not give up your faithful ones to Sheol.

All: Show me the path of life, and the fullness of joy in your presence.

HYMN 170

You Walk along Our Shoreline

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God – we confess what You know so well already:

that there is so much that impedes our following You;

that deep shadows of doubt swallow the path;

that fear haunts our beginning,

and world-weariness slows our progress;

that we see the journey of our days so narrowly –

only as a means of fulfilling our desires,

seldom as a way toward understanding our neighbors,

or coming closer to the suffering of those around us.

Call us again! Renew our readiness, refresh our courage!

Unburden us as we pray!

Invite us again to follow – and give us ears to hear –

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

LAND OF REST



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

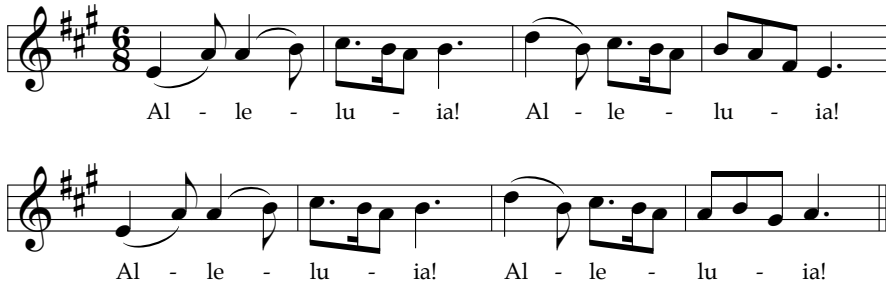


Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

This is hymn 587, *Alleluia* (CELTIC ALLELUIA).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Jonah 3:1–5, 10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:14–20

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

Walking Each Other Home

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Reid and Charlotte Sawtell present their son John Leo Ewels Sawtell, born September 18, 2020, for baptism.

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 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM

Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final two lines. The piano accompaniment consists of simple chords and single notes.

A note about today's

Offertory: David Brunner was asked to do a commission related to the War Child Netherlands project. He says, "the plight of the child is beautifully captured in the Irish Fisherman's Prayer – O Lord, be good to me. The sea is so great and my boat is so small." To this he added a Buddhist text from *The Way of the Bodhisattva*, a sect whose fundamental belief is that we must be as concerned with the well-being of others as we are with our own.

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.



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *A Simple Boat* arr. David Brunner

Dear Lord, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small.
Regard your body as a vessel, a simple boat for going here and there.
Make of it a wish-fulfilling gem to bring about the benefit of beings.
May I be a guard for those who are protectorless,
a guide for those who journey on the road.
For those who wish to go across the water, may I be a boat, a raft, a bridge.

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE



- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Sortie in F Major*

Albert Alain

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/2RIig2l>

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Jay Sanderford; Liturgists – Andrew Frazier and Khayla Johnson; Scripture Reader – Brianna McLaughlin; Children’s Message – Beca Torres-Davenport and Melissa Anne Rogers; Preacher – Rick Spalding; Soloists – 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

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>. If you need help, please contact Rev. Rogers. **Today’s special guest is Resident Minister Rev. Amy Ruhf who has been called to active duty as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and will end her time as one of our pastors in Ann Arbor on January 31.**

Chancel Flowers are given in honor and appreciation of the outgoing Class of 2020 Elders and Deacons who served so faithfully and in honor and appreciation of the Class of 2023 Elders and Deacons who were ordained and installed last Sunday. **Outgoing officers are:** Dick Carlisle, Pam Ehrhart, Mary Engelhardt, Robin Fosheim-Hoag, Nancy Fox, Doug Gottlieb, Diane Hockett, Alice Holderby, Linda Koopmann, Duane Locke, Bill McPherson, Susan Morville, Renee Mulcrone, Karen Mundus, Nancy Oliver, Julie Rupp, Dianne Santinga, Brian Schneidewind, Mary Smith, Jeanette Swartz, Bill Upton, Sara Vander Voort, Brian Williams, Heidi Williams, and Pam Wood. **Incoming officers are:** Jennifer Day, Kate Kraft, Steve McKenny, Keith Molin, Renee Mulcrone, Len Rezmierski, Jean Song, and Deanne Woodruff. Deacons to be ordained and installed are Betty Anderson, Anne Andrus, Kim Byers-Granito, Lisa Danielson, Sharon Dort, Carol Downton, Jennifer Edwards, Pam Ehrhart, Kathy Hillig, Nicole Jolliet, Catherine Kendall, Linda Koos, Chris Lin, Betsy McCallister, Angie Miller, Nelly Petrock, Brad Taylor, Nancy Tena, and Felicity Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is called by Session for next Sunday, January 31, for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report of the church, voting on changes to the installed pastors’ terms of call, and acting on any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting will begin immediately following the Closing Voluntary. This virtual meeting may be accessed by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>.

Reopening Update: Announcing our new easy-to-view Reopening Grid (see our website)! As the Covid-19 vaccines become more readily available, the RRVG recommends consulting with your healthcare professional about getting vaccinated as soon as possible. Training on using our new camera system in the Sanctuary takes place this next week. As we say goodbye to several staff members, others are taking on new roles until new staff can be hired. 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 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357>) 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.

Welcome College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m. there are in-person, socially-distant college lunches. Each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. there are small group opportunities, both in-person and virtually. Contact Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are many available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

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

Visit our Virtual Art Exhibit “For the Beauty of the Earth” by clicking www.fboe.weebly.com. The photography is by Judy Kisla of Atlanta, Georgia.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) to discuss "Eight Questions That Can Help You Survive Election Stress – and Perhaps Boost Your Resilience."

Exploring the Faith meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>) at 11:30 a.m. (a new time), for "Why Jesus' Jewishness Matters to Christians," a series led by Rev. Deborah Forger, a former First Pres Resident Minister. This series highlights the first-century Jewish world in which Jesus was born and why Jesus' Jewishness matters to Christians. We will learn about Jesus as a figure in history as a first century Palestinian Jew.

Bible Study @ 5 meets 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, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families. Beca can be reached at btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org.

Children's Choir News. The Children's Choir meets virtually on Sundays, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate.

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.

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!

CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

The next Taizé Prayer Service is Tuesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of January will be overseen by the Local Missions Team. Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor is the recipient of your generosity.

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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
Barb DeLancey, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator
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 Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor
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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**BLACK LIVES
MATTER**

We have work to do.



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