

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
January 31, 2021



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

**Making God's Love Visible**

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

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**.

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**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.

**The new Ordinary Time (green) paraments on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table were made by Gail Grady.**

The symbols used are the Alpha (pulpit) and Omega (lectern) – first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (see Revelation 1:8), and a Celtic representation of the Trinity (on the Communion Table). Thank you, Gail!

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 122)

One: I was glad when they said to me,

**All: “Let us go up to the house of the Lord!”**

One: Our feet are standing within your gates,

**All: built like a city founded on firm ground.**

One: To this place the peoples come;

**All: here we give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

One: Pray for the peace of the sanctuary:

**All: Peace be within these walls.**

One: For the sake of our beloved ones I will say,  
“Peace be within you.”

**All: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek your good.**

#### HYMN 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

KINGSFOLD

Please join in singing Stanzas 1 and 3 only.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, in Jesus Christ You have invited us  
into the shelter of this place, this community, this faith –  
and You have urged us to trust in the power of repentance  
to make all things new.**

**So we bring before You now those things  
that have burdened our hearts, wounded our trust,  
tormented our spirits:**

**memories of our failures and the failures of others;  
scars of unresolved anger and unhealed hurt;  
timid responses to glaring injustices;  
doubt that living without these burdens will ever be possible.**

**In the silence and peace of these moments together,  
help us to find courage and hope enough  
to center our minds, to fill our time, to occupy our hands  
with the work of love we have been learning from Jesus –  
and to commit ourselves to the abundant life he has opened to us.**

**Make of us, even us, we pray, a new creation –**

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

# PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:21–28

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### SERMON

*Coming to Church*

## RESPONDING

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

#### Prayer of Dedication

#### Offertory

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*  
Imani Mchunu, soloist

arr. William Dawson

#### *Refrain:*

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot sing like angels,  
if you cannot preach like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus  
and say, "He died for all." (*Refrain*)

### 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.**

**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.



# SENDING

HYMN 181

*Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit*

EBENEZER

Stanzas 1 and 3 will be sung.

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>

1 "Si - lence! Fren-zied, un - clean spir - it," cried God's  
2 Lord, the de - mons still are thriv - ing in the  
3 Si - lence, Lord, the un - clean spir - it, in our

heal - ing, Ho - ly One. "Cease your rant - ing! Flesh can't  
gray cells of the mind: ty - rant voic - es, shrill and  
mind and in our heart. Speak your word that when we

bear it. Flee as night be - fore the sun."  
driv - ing, twist - ed thoughts that grip and bind,  
hear it all our de - mons shall de - part.

At Christ's voice the de - mon trem-bled, from its vic - tim  
doubts that stir the heart to pan - ic, fears dis - tort - ing,  
Clear our thought and calm our feel - ing; still the frac - tured,

mad - ly rushed, while the crowd that was as -  
rea - son's sight, guilt that makes our lov - ing  
war - ring soul. By the pow - er of your

sem - bled stood in won - der, stunned, and hushed.  
fran - tic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.  
heal - ing make us faith - ful, true, and whole.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Prelude on "Ebenezer"*

Charles W. Ore

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**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation immediately follows the Closing Voluntary.** Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, which is required by our By-Laws, 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. This virtual meeting may be accessed by clicking <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>.

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### **Cover photograph**

was provided by Facilities Manager Adrian Prundeanu.

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**Leaders of Worship:** Welcome – Evans McGowan; Liturgists – Jay Sanderford and Amy Ruhf; Scripture Reader – Jeff Teucke; Children's Message – Khayla Johnson and Mark Mares; Preacher – Rick Spalding; Vocalists – 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

**There is no Coffee Hour today** due to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Join us next week when our special guest will be First Pres member and former Administrative Assistant Cindy King.

**Chancel flowers** are given by Karla and Omer Olson-Bellfi in loving memory of their parents.

**Red rosebuds** celebrate the birth of Lucas Asher Wiczerza, son of Kevin and Cassie (Webster) Wiczerza, born December 6, 2020; and Hawkins James White, son of Brittany Queen and Zach White, born January 22, 2021. First time grandfather is Chris Queen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Reopening Update:** Announcing our new easy-to-view Reopening Grid (see our website)! As the Covid-19 vaccines become more readily available, the RRWG recommends consulting with your healthcare professional about getting vaccinated as soon as possible. Training has been completed on using our new camera system and sound system in the Sanctuary, and practicing has begun! 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

**Our two new parish nurses, Barb DeLancey and Stacey Pakela, are now at work!** Please reach out to get to know them and learn more about their gifts and interests in their ministry among us, and help them get to know you. You can reach Barb at [bdelancey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bdelancey@firstpresbyterian.org) and Stacey at [spakela@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:spakela@firstpresbyterian.org). To send a message to both, email them at [parishnurse@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:parishnurse@firstpresbyterian.org). Or, call the Church Office!

**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.

**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](mailto:campus@firstpresbyterian.org)) for more information. He 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](mailto: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](http://www.fboe.weebly.com). The photography is by Judy Kisla of Atlanta, Georgia.

**Ministry of Music:** If you would like to participate in the Chancel Choir’s virtual anthems, contact Dave VanderMeer for more information: [dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org). All are welcome to participate!

**We are the Church TOGETHER, in Faith, Love, and the Spirit Stewardship Update:** As of January 25, 442 pledges totaling \$1,480,456 have been received. This represents 87.1% 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!

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**First Friends** meets at 11:30 a.m. (new time for today only) via Zoom (<https://emich.zoom.us/j/81429993076>) for a discussion on the Supreme Court.

**Exploring the Faith** does not meet today due to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

**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 ([btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org)), Coordinator of Children’s & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families.

**Children’s faith formation classes and Children’s Choir** do not meet this Sunday so that all may attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares ([mmares@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mmares@firstpresbyterian.org)), Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time.

**Youth faith formation classes** do not meet this morning so that all may attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

**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!

## CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Pandemic Pancake Party Coming Soon!** Shrove Tuesday is February 16, and First Pres is ready for a party! It's the last hurrah before the penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. In honor of the day, and eager for a day to celebrate, join hosts Peter Bubriski and Rev. Rogers on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86554821798>) for a pancake party, 5:30–6:30. As we gather together, Rev. Rogers and others will talk about what Shrove Tuesday means and why we eat pancakes on the day, also known as Fat Tuesday (or, in cajun French, 'Mardi Gras'). Join us from your kitchen with your pancake fixings there while we cook and eat together, share what kind of pancakes we made, and get kids and adults of all ages together for a true time of wonder, delicious dinner, and chaos. While we eat, we hope to have a brief slide show of photos. Snap a picture with your phone of something you take on during Lent as a spiritual practice, or a photo that somehow speaks to you of what the season of Lent means. Send photos to Rev. Rogers ([mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org)) by February 12. See you at the party!

**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](mailto:afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org)) for more information.

**The next Taizé Prayer Service** is this 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-Brien, Resident Minister  
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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**BLACK LIVES  
MATTER**

*We have work to do.*



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