# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 14, 2021





*Testify to the Light* Jan Richardson

WONDROUS LOVE



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**.

#### 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.

This morning's Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession were inspired by Psalm 107.

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

## GATHERING

## WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

**OPENING VOLUNTARY** 

Adagio Sanctus Ringers Tomaso Albinoni

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Psalmist has entreated us: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so – Let those whom God has restored give thanks!"

- All: We are those, O God, who have heard Your voice, who have felt Your touch, who have known Your nearness.
- One: And we are those who have wandered, who have wondered, who have worried –
- All: We have sought You, searched for You, suffered in separation from You. Show us the face of Your compassion; speak to us a word of comfort.
- One: We bring to You, O God, our light and our darkness, our hope and our fear, our emptiness and our fullness.
- All: Gather us in from all our directions to rejoice in Your steadfast love: fill our mouths with praise, steady our hearts with prayer, ready our lives for service as we worship You.

* HYMN 215	What Wondrous Love Is This
This hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin.	

WONDROUS LOVE

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and gracious God –

- In the silence and sanctity of this time we acknowledge
  - that we have known the bitterness of failed resolve,
  - that we have felt the burn of impatience, the sting of disappointment,
- that we have endured the folly of our own arrogance.
- Forgive us for old angers that have scarred our relationships and wounded our memories.
  - Fill the overcast places in our lives with the true Light that cleanses and heals.

Heal us, we pray, of the fear that we do not have enough faith.

- Give us courage to turn again toward the Light
  - that You have lifted before us in Jesus -
  - and show us the way that leads toward our best selves as we open our hearts and minds to You –

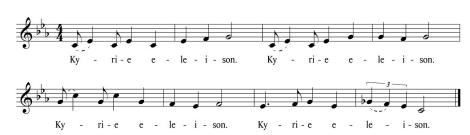
## SILENT PRAYER

The Kyrie we sing this morning was written by Dinah Reindorf after a World Council of Churches gathering in Geneva, Switzerland. As a part of their worship, participants in the gathering took a blindfolded "passion walk" as pilgrims meditating on Christ's journey to the cross. The melody is intended to reflect a pilgrim's slow walk through Lent. The Greek "Kyrie eleison" is translated as "Lord Have Mercy."

## 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.

## **KYRIE**



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## \* PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



This is Stanza 5 of Hymn 467, Give Us Light (учотні оно).

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READINGNumbers 21:4–9This is the Word of the Lord.Thanks be to God.

## A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 3:14–21 The grass withers, the flower fades; the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

Light and Shadow

## RESPONDING



## **OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

#### Offertory

Through Love to Light

Elaine Hagenberg

### 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/2Rlig2l

Use these offertory moments to savor vour 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.



Through love to light! Oh, wonderful the way That leads from darkness to the perfect day! From darkness and from sorrow of the night To morning that comes singing o'er the sea. Through love to light! Through light, O God, to thee, Who art the love of love, the eternal light of light! \* Doxology 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/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.

## SENDING

**\* HYMN 634** To God Be the Glory This hymn is found later in this bulletin.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** 

Finale

Oreste Ravanello

## Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation via

Zoom for today, Sunday, March 14, 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. All members of First Pres are encouraged to attend, and to vote. This virtual meeting may be accessed by clicking <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8225711636</u>.

# 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 Praver each week during Lent. This week's adaptation is by Lyn Seils Robertson. (We'll return to our most familiar version on Easter.)

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## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### Bill McPherson (candidate for a two-year, unexpired term)



I came to First Pres in the mid-90's seeking a return to active, regular spiritual engagement. Several recent moves had disrupted the continuity and community that were hallmarks of the relationship I wanted with other Christians. Visiting First Pres was an eye-opener. Here was a congregation that was giving of themselves: their time, their passion, their expertise, and their money. It didn't take long before I knew this was a place for me to grow my Christianity and to enjoy the people that I would be with.

Shortly after joining First Pres, the opportunity to be involved knocked on my door. Helping lead a major capital campaign introduced me to many church

members, gave me an opportunity to use my expertise as an engineer, and gave me a sense that I was giving back. More opportunities followed and I have been both active in and blessed by many different aspects of the church's fellowship, its leadership, and its mission to the community for 25 years.

*My career was in consulting engineering and industrial energy development. I recently retired from DTE Energy after 23 years, am an avid golfer, and love to travel. My life is enriched by two daughters, three grandsons, and the beautiful woman I'm engaged to.* 

## Jeff Teucke (candidate for a one-year, unexpired term)

I live in Scio Township with my wife Carol. We have 4 granddaughters and a new grandson, all of whom are located out of state and who we are missing terribly.

We have been members at First Pres since 2017, following 30 years in the New York tri-state area. I was an Elder for two terms in our small church in New Jersey and have been seeking a way to serve here at First Pres. I am looking forward to participating as a member of Session to see how I can help during this time of transition and discovery.



**Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour** today immediately following the Called Meeting of the Congregation. **Our conversation prompt:** Tell us about a time when seeing a cross somewhere made a strong impression on you. Where were you and why has that memory remained with you? Enter Coffee Hour today by clicking <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8225711636</u>.

**HYMN 634** 

TO GOD BE THE GLORY





# 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 selves, 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."

# LENT '21– GIVEN BACK

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 – Evans McGowan; Liturgists – Andrew Frazier and Jay Sanderford; Scripture Reader – Alexandra Strauss; Children's Message – Beca Torres-Davenport and Melissa Anne Rogers; 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; Producers – Jennifer Day and Sean Hoskins; Ushers – Ken, Ali, and Ava Westfall, Angela Yang, and Carol and Paul Smith

**Chancel flowers** are given in loving memory of David Husted by his wife Phyllis on the first anniversary of his death; and in loving memory of Emily Ann Andrea by her family Katie, Dave, and Elizabeth Andrea.

**A pink rosebud** celebrates the birth of Leona Katherine Cooley on January 31, 2021. She is the daughter of Clare Lindley and Jesse Cooley and the granddaughter of Mark Lindley and Sandy Talbott.

# 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.

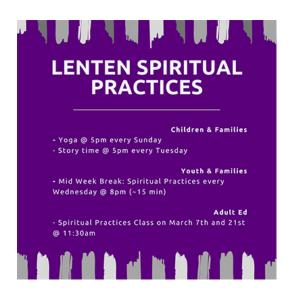
**Lenten Devotionals.** We hope you are receiving the daily Lenten email devotional written by our members. If you are not, please sign up online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

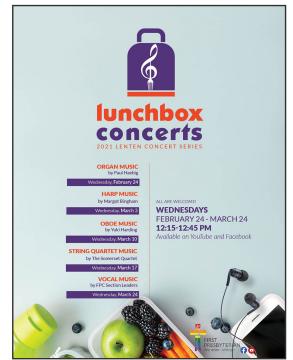
A virtual Peeps & Pizza party is this Saturday, March 20. More information is available on our website or by contacting Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry. Sign up at <a href="https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/peeps-at-home/">https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/peeps-at-home/</a>.

**GOOD NEWS!** A Virtual Easter Pageant. If you enjoyed this year's special online Christmas Nativity Service, we invite you to join us again. *Good News!*, a fresh retelling of Holy Week, will be presented as one of our Easter Worship services on Facebook and YouTube. There are roles for everyone of every age, suggested props, and Zoom backdrops to make the story come alive. You can sign up to have a large speaking role, a small speaking role, or a non-speaking role. **This Wednesday, March 17, is the last day to sign up to participate.** The Zoom recording, is Saturday, March 27, 10:00 a.m. – noon. Sign up online to receive a digital script at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScUWvUU1dgOza1GeP0h7VXEeuzVpk9DXH0LdF60mU7In74Pkw/viewform.

More Information Is Coming Soon About These Opportunities:

- Holy Week Services
- Easter Sunday Sanctuary Stroll





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Member Class today!** Interested in joining? Ready to become a member and join the family? We'd love to welcome you! Today from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. join our new member class via this link: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87356165116</u>. Meet staff, learn more about Presbyterians, discover our history and help chart our future, with God's help!

**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 (<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357</u>) 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.

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

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173</u>) on the second and fourth Thursdays monthly at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Frazier (<u>afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org</u>) 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 is available on YouTube and Facebook. Find the link here: <u>https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-hymn-sing</u>.

**Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of March** will be overseen by Presbyterian Woman. Financial donations and donations of food will benefit Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. 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., or mailed to the church to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller.

**Suds and Sheets for Cass.** In March join with our First Pres community to give something back to the Cass residents by providing laundry detergent and paper towels. Donations of detergent and paper goods are especially helpful and compassionate gifts to families living in shelter space at Cass or in other transitional housing on the Cass campus. Bins for paper goods and laundry detergent collection are provided outside the First Pres church entrance at the Memorial Garden Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please make checks payable to First Pres, marked Suds and Sheets for Cass.

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 <u>pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org</u>. Information about our search is available at: <u>https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian</u>

**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). Are you able to help restock the pantry at Alpha House? If so, sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4faaaf2daa8-alpha54.

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

First Presbyterian Church will be closed on Monday, April 5. Easter Monday is an annual holiday for staff.

# **ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**First Friends** meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175</u>) to discuss Chapter 23 of Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Always a Guest: Speaking of Faith Far from Home.* "

**Exploring the Faith** meets today at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom (<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133</u>). for a discussion led by Rev. Spalding on "The Vast Mystery of Another: Finding Words for Compassion."

**Bible Study** @ 5 meets today via Zoom (<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620</u>) 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 (<u>kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org</u>) or Rev. Mares (<u>mmares@firstpresbyterian.org</u>) 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 (Middle/High/Confirmation). **Our Confirmation Class** meets on Zoom the second and third Sunday of each month, and in person for the fourth Sunday.

**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!



## All-Church Variety Show Coming Later This Spring!

Join us by sharing your talent for our All-Church Variety Show. You may record your act or talent from home or schedule a time to record yourself in the sanctuary.

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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