

first presbyterian church



When did we
See you?
Matthew 25: 31-46

*Worshiping, serving, and living with a fresh vision of
God's vibrant energy and grace for all.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 17, 2023 // 10am

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING SONG #411 *God is Here Today*

LIFE AT FIRST

Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you.

RINGING THE BELL

PRELUDE

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (Tune: Morecambe)

Brenda Portman

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Terry Schamper

One: Look, God's Spirit is doing a new thing! —
blowing locked doors open, letting fresh air in.

All: She has come to stir us up, to make all things new.

One: Listen! God's Spirit whirls across the world
calling out to all Creation, "Come and worship!"

All: Across long distances, She draws us close.

One: She gathers us in all our multitude
of minds and bodies, our diverse ways of being.

All: We come with unique gifts and dreams to share.

One: We come with different questions, struggles, strengths.

All: We depend upon each other to be whole.

One: Rejoice! God's Spirit suffuses every living thing
with a special care lavished upon society's outcasts.

All: Let us glorify the One who lifts the lowly high.

*OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN** #757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, when we fail to recognize your presence
in those the world calls worthless or unclean,

**All: grant us humility to listen when they call us out.
Open us up to your wisdom, wherever it grows.**

One: Wherever our churches have slandered your holy name
by claiming your love is conditional,
by calling the diversity you created a sin,
by casting out your own beloved, and causing grievous spiritual harm,

**All: move us to repentance. Give us the courage to draw our circles wider,
to transform our communities to look more like your queer Kin-dom.**

One: When transgender youth tell us who they are
and what they need to achieve safety and joy,
but we dismiss their truth as childish whimsy
and reject their urgency as “just a phase,”

**All: God, remind us your wisdom transcends age.
Help us let go of our assumptions of what these kids “should” be
so that we can embrace the beautiful souls they are.**

One: And when Spirit fills us with Her wisdom,
but we doubt our own voice, shrug off our own gifts,
because we’ve internalized systemic lies
that nothing of value can come from the likes of us,

**All: God, help us unlearn the lie of our unworthiness.
Teach us to give ourselves the grace we give to others.
Guide us to those who will love us as we learn to love ourselves.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

I'm So Glad You're Here

Rev. Paul Van Kempen

All: I'm so glad you're here (x3)
Here today

Were gonna sing while we're here (x3)
Here today

Love brought us here (x3)
Here today

ANTHEM

Look to the Day

John Rutter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25: 31 - 45

One: The Word of God for the people of God;

All: thanks be to God.

SERMON

Avery Arden

*HYMN #186 *Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator," "Our Mother," or "Our Parent."

All: 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.

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND LIVES

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY #606

All: Praise God whose image we all bear.
Praise Christ whose mercy we all share.
Praise Spirit making justice grow.
One God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Life Giving God,
who made us who we are,
we offer all of ourselves to You.

Take our talents, our energy and our joy,
and use us to share Your love.

Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain,
and use us to bring Your healing.

Magnify the gifts we offer before You today,
to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.

*HYMN #852 *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

COMMISSIONING OF WORSHIP CENTER CELEBRANTS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Siyahamba, We Are Marching In the Light of God (Zulu Melody)* arr. John Carter

Worship Leaders: Avery Arden, Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Paul Van Kempen,
Terry Schamper, Chuck Norris, Beth Magennis, FPC Choir
Thanks to: Sound and Video Tim Richardson, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,
M&M Café Providers, Kate Overbeek and Nursery Care Providers

Much of today's liturgy was written by Avery Arden.

Please welcome guest preacher & teacher Avery Arden to the pulpit this morning.

Avery, a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, and member of the Board of More Light Presbyterians, was the featured speaker at the Presbytery of Lake Michigan's quarterly meeting on September 16. Avery Arden (they/them, MDiv) is a member of Cathy's former church in Tuscaloosa and offered to preach and teach for us this morning.

Avery's teaching will focus on responding to the call to love all God's children, how do we cultivate communities that fully include and affirm transgender people? Come with your questions, come with ideas, or just bring yourself!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Education Hour Begins Today // Join us from 11:15am-noon.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study Kickoff // Wednesday, **September 20**, at 9:30 am. We welcome Rev. Cathy Hoop to Miriam Circle to help us set the stage for our study through the books of Luke and Acts in "*Sacred Encounters – The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*". So, do you know Theophilus? Or that Luke and Acts were written by the same author as two volumes of one book? You will! All women of FPC Holland are welcome to attend our monthly Bible study on 2nd Wednesdays of each month, October through May. Find us in the Michigan Room at 9:30am. Don't forget the Least Coin offering you have set aside from your prayer life too.

Young Families // Join us at the Benjamin's Hope Harvest Festival on Saturday, **September 30**. We will meet at Benjamin's Hope (15468 Riley St.) at 3pm. The event includes live music, a train show, games, food, hayrides, alpacas, bunnies, and free all-abilities fun!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HCT Theatre Outing // Saturday, October 14 at 7:30pm we have tickets to see *Young Frankenstein, the Musical*. This stage production is an electrifying adaptation of Mel Brooks' monstrously funny film and will leave you in stitches. Grandson of Victor Frankenstein inherits his family estate in Transylvania, he travels there and meets all the unique characters in and around the castle. The creature he creates eventually escapes and hilarity continuously abounds. Sign-up in the narthex. Tickets are \$19. See Chris Urbaniak for more details.

Fall is Here! // The Worship & the Arts Council would like to spruce up the Meet & Mingle area with fall decorations. We need your help bringing in items like leaves, pumpkins, or other fall decorations. Looking forward to a colorful display! Please bring your decorations to the church office. Contact Beth Magennis with any questions.

Volunteers Needed // The coordinators of the M & M Cafe are looking for potential new volunteers to support the efforts of the current volunteers for fall season of October - December. If this is something you are interested in and have questions, please contact Peggy Purdy, Scheduler, at 206-910-4555.

Presbyterian 101: What is an Elder? // A "ruling elder" in the Presbyterian Church is elected by their congregation to serve a three-year term as one of twelve leaders who comprise the Session. They do not rule, but rather represent the direction of the congregation as a whole. Presbyterianism was the organizational model our founders used when writing the Constitution and other democratic documents. Any member of the congregation can be considered for this role. Session usually has a monthly meeting, where the regular business of the Church is conducted. Elders also serve on a "council," where more focused work is done: personnel, building, outreach, worship, to name some of our councils. Serving as an elder is a commitment of time, talent, energy and imagination. It is often one of the most rewarding experiences of one's faith journey. If you would like to know more -even if you think you aren't "qualified" - if getting more involved in your Church post-COVID is appealing, let's talk. Gail Hering, Nominating Committee Chair, (616) 399-5513 nosnowholland@gmail.com

A Special Note // Thank you to all the kind folks who sent cards, offered caring wishes and prayers, or gave warm hugs after the death of my sister. Losing Mary was (and is) difficult, naturally, but having such evidence of God's care helped immensely. With great appreciation, Linda Clark.

STAFF

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
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DEACONS

Class of 2024: Linda Winkelmann, Colleen Ball

Class of 2025: Nancy Staal, Lauren Stouffer,
Paul Van Kolken

Class of 2026: Tom Glover, Terri Schamper

ELDERS

Class of 2024: Linda Clark, Sherry Martens, Tim Staal,
Amy VanderMeer

Class of 2025: Danielle Peterson, Gail Herring,
Jon McFadyen, Beth Magennis

Class of 2026: Bruce Rosensteel, Carleen Bauer

Children of all ages are encouraged and welcome to be with us during worship.
If you prefer an alternative:

- Nursery: Newborn - 3 years of age (main level)
- Celebration Time: 4 years of age through 1st grade are invited to attend following Children's Time within the Service; attached to the Nursery.
- Education Time: 11:15am - noon. Resumes in September.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

659 State St., Holland, Michigan 49423 / Office: (616) 392-9022 / Email: office@fpcholland.org



FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of the PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at MLP.org

God Is Here Today

411

Dios está aquí

Capo 2: (D) (A7) (Bm) (D7) (G)
 E B7 C#m E7 A



God is here to - day; as cer - tain
Dios es - tá a - quí, tan cier - to co - mo el

(A7) (D) (D7) (G)
 B7 E E7 A



as the air I breathe, as cer - tain
ai - re que res - pi - ro, tan cier - to co - mo

(A7) (D) (A/C#) (Bm) (D/A)
 B7 E B/D# C#m E/B



as the morn - ing sun that ris - es, as
la ma - ña - na se le - van - ta, tan

(G) (A7) (D)
 A B7 E



cer - tain when I sing you'll hear my song.
cier - to co - mo que le can - to y me pue - de o - ír.

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

186 Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble," said Je - sus
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y? When were you
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren, when you gave
 4 Christ, when we see you out on life's road - ways, look - ing to



Christ to the righ - teous a - bove. "When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and
 home - less, a strang - er a - lone? When did we see you sick or in
 shel - ter to war's ref - u - gees, when you re - mem - bered those most for -
 us in the fac - es of need, then may we know you, wel - come, and



home - less, sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
 pris - on? What have we done that you call us your own?
 got - ten, you cared for me in the small - est of these."
 show you love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

852 When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

1 When the Lord re - deems the ver - y least,
 2 When the Lord re - stores the sick and weak, we will re -
 3 When the Lord re - vives the world from death, we will re-joyce, will re -
 4 When the Lord re - turns in vic - to - ry,

joyce.
 joyce, will re-joyce. When the hun - gry gath - er for the feast,
 When the earth is giv - en to the meek,
 When the word of God fills ev - ery breath,
 When we live in glo - rious lib - er - ty,

Refrain

we will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce.

joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce.
 joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce with glad-ness. All our

We will re-joyce!
 days we'll sing to God in praise. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce!