

first presbyterian church



MISUNDERSTANDING
THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 19, 2023 // 10am

CENTERING WORDS: The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil,
but by those who watch them without doing anything. ~ Albert Einstein

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING SONG #710 *We Lift Our Voices* Darren Parker, cantor

LIFE AT FIRST

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

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRELUDE *Simple Gifts* Handbell Ensemble

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Doug Smith

One: God is an invitation. An opening. A chance to do things differently.

All: Always before us, God is the possibility of transformation.

One: Though everyday ordinary patterns of living disguise evil and cover over sins,

All: God searches our hearts and makes known what is hidden.

One: Love comes to help us. We are not left powerless to do right.

All: We profess and believe, the power of God lives in us!

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN** *God of Grace & God of Glory* (see insert New Century Hymnal lyrics)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Loving God,
in Jesus you offer life to the world**

and love to its people.
When we see life only for ourselves,
forgive us.
Help us to hear your transforming love
speaking to us of respect, dignity and worth,
telling us that we are loved
and that we are to love one another.
In the knowledge of this love
work through us to bring your justice to the world,
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God knows us better than we know ourselves,
and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

All: **By God's mercy, we are forgiven;
by God's love, we are made whole;
by God's Spirit, we are equipped to serve others.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Little Children, Come unto Me

All: **Little children, come unto me;
Little children, come unto me.
You are made in God's image so perfectly.
Little children, come unto me.**

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

Handbell Ensemble

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 123

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

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

All: **thanks be to God.**

SERMON

May God Have Mercy on the Whistle Blower

Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

*HYMN #543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

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

Offering plates are located at the sanctuary entrances and online giving is available through the website. Thank you for supporting the ministries of our congregation.

*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: We walk by faith,
we live by faith,
we give by faith.
God of great gifts,
you have given us so much,
accept these gifts from our hands,
our faithful response to your abundant grace. Amen.**

***HYMN #747** *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Recessional VII

Merchant

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Doug Smith, Chuck Norris,
Beth Magennis, FPC Handbell Ensemble, Darren Parker, Rose Gifford, Karen Howells

Thanks to: Sound and Video Operators, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,
M&M Café Providers, Kate Overbeek and Nursery Care Providers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting has been called for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders, Deacons and Nominating Committee Members at Large. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 26 following the 10a Worship Service. Please plan to attend.

Season of Giving // Stewardship packets are available on a table in the entryway. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the ministries of FPC in the coming year. Pledge cards can be returned through the church office or by placing them in the offering plate.

Thanksgiving Office Hours // Please note the FPC office will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal office hours will resume Monday, November 27.

Community wide Thanksgiving Worship Service // A community wide Thanksgiving worship service will be held at 5pm on **Sunday, November 19** at Grace Episcopal Church (555 Michigan Ave, Holland). At this time of so much strife in our country, our nation, and our world, may our coming together for worship with fellow Christians sow much needed seeds of peace. Christians Uniting in Song and Prayer (CUSP) invites everyone to attend. Congregational singing will be complimented by the Holland Ecumenical Choir (50 singers from about 20 area congregations) and the DeSales Brass. Rev. Jen Adams (pastor of Grace Episcopal) will lead the service, and Rev. Kory Plockmeyer (executive director of Movement West Michigan) will deliver the sermon. This service is sure to uplift and inspire and hopefully challenge all who participate. For further information, please email info@cuspholland.org.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities // The Wired Word class will continue through November 26, and all are welcome to join in this dialogue between scripture and current events. Beginning December 3 we will dive into the Amy-Jill Levine Advent Study: *Light of the World*.

Non-Perishable Food Collection / Worship Center children will be partnering with Community Action House in providing non-perishable food for those in need. We invite the congregation to join the children in bringing non-perishable food and placing it in the labeled container in the Narthex, bring it forward during Children's Time in the Worship Service, or offer it to a child to bring forward. Thank you for participating with our children in their focus of offering. The collection will continue through February 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 28 Downtown Holland Parade of Lights // The FPC Bus will again be in the Holland Parade of Lights! Sign up across from the office if you would like to ride along and/or walk in the parade (and maybe sing some Christmas carols if we have musical folks available). Parade participants can meet the bus on 9th street in the line-up by 6:15pm. The parade route runs up 9th to Lincoln, then down 8th to the Civic Center and ends around 8pm.

Annual ACTS Art Show // You're invited! This is a wonderful opportunity for friends of ACTS to come together to celebrate creativity and help fund the work and mission of ACTS Holland. There is no admission charge to attend. The event is Open House Style, so come when you can and stay as long as you'd like. Refreshments and Snacks will be provided. Though this is an opportunity to see the kids' art on display, attendees are not obligated to bid on the art or make a donation.

Wednesday, November 29th, 5:30-8pm at Merchant Hall in Washington Square.

Bidding on Artwork and Silent Auction Packages begins at 5:30pm and ends at 7:30pm.

In case you don't know about ACTS Holland: ACTS (Art, Community, Teaching and Serving) has been serving the youth of Holland for 10 years. Director, Jaime Blom and a group of teens meeting to share their lives with each other and read Bible passages came up with the idea of forming a ministry for Holland youth, and ACTS was started and has grown from that moment. ACTS currently serves 45 four year-olds thru high school teens year round.

Advent Potluck and Luminaries // Join us at noon after the education hour on Sunday, December 3 for a potluck and intergenerational creative activity as we enter into the season of Advent. Bring a dish to share and come ready to make a luminary to bring home. If your last name starts with A-K, bring a side or dessert. If your last name starts with L-Z, bring a main dish. Please keep potluck dishes nut-free. Sign up in the narthex if you can help with set-up at 9am before church or stay to clean up after we finish.

Thank You // Dear friends at FPC, the folks at Refresh Ministries are so thankful for your thoughtfulness at this time. The warm outerwear is so important for those living outside.

Thanks for your help. Peace, Karen Howells, Closet Contessa at Refresh .

STAFF

| | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| Cathy Caldwell-Hoop | Senior Pastor and Head of Staff | Cathy@fpcholland.org |
| Paul Van Kempen | Associate Pastor | Paul@fpcholland.org |
| Hannah Campau | Administrative Assistant | Office@fpcholland.org |
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| Chuck Norris | Director of Music | Charles@fpcholland.org |
| Jane Oosterhouse | Custodian | Jane@fpcholland.org |
| Thom Samuelson | Maintenance | Thom@fpcholland.org |
| Sue Stock | Communications | Sue@fpcholland.org |

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.
- Adult Class - Michigan Room (typically) - main level.
- Youth - Youth Room - lower level.
- Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade - lower level.
- Nursery - Newborn through 3 years - main level.

All children and youth options are supervised with two adults who have been background checked and adhere to the Child & Youth Protection Policy.

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, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that

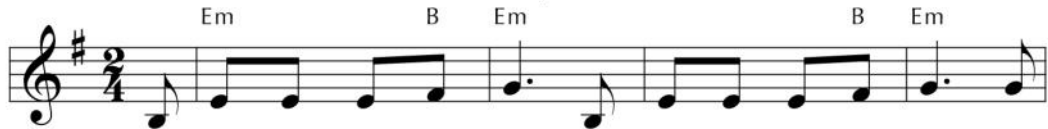


move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

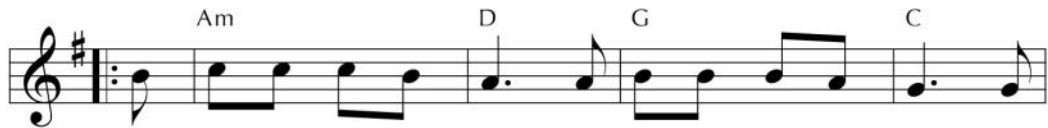
747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Enviado soy de Dios

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa -



make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.



The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain to
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar un



do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name; that
mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor; me



falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help
ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad. A -



us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.
yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.