



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
March 8, 2026 // 10am
Third Sunday in Lent // Holy Confrontation

CENTERING WORDS:

When faith dares to speak back, the table grows larger, and the crumbs reveal the feast.
~ Illustrated Ministry, *The Work of Imagination*

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING

One: The God of life be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

GATHERING SONG

Come As You Are (Bulletin/Screen)

Sherry Martens

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jan Brashler

One: Come into God's presence,
you who imagine and you who seek,
you who disrupt and you who repair.

All: **By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

One: Come into God's abundance,
you of great faith,
and you who grasp at crumbs;
you who resist, and you who persist.

All: **In Christ, we gather and are transformed.**

One: Come into God's presence,
singing for joy and for justice;
bringing prayer and worship,
your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: **To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #301 *Let Us Build a House*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of mercy and compassion,
we confess we have not always treated our neighbors,
friends, or even family members with dignity.

All: **We have been critical when we should have been encouraging.
We have told lies when we should have been honest with hard truths.
We have excluded people when we should have widened the invitation.
Forgive us for the ways that we have failed our neighbors, friends, and
family with unkind words. Amen.**

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 #727 *The Servant Song* (vs. 1-2)

ANTHEM

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Brenda Portman

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 15:21–28

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Inhale: God grant me courage...

Exhale: ...to speak out in faith.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

All: **We believe in the dignity of human beings as image bearers and dearly beloved children of God.**

**We believe all people carry God-given dignity—
across every age, race, ethnicity,
gender, sexual orientation, language,
accent, documentation status, refugee status,
appearance, ability, illness.**

**We believe all people carry God-given dignity-
whatever their relationship status,
social media following, family history,
criminal background, education, geographical location,
clothing, wealth, poverty, or religion.**

**We believe all people carry God-given dignity-
Whatever their mental health, height, weight,
hairstyle, tattoos, piercings, talents, or weaknesses.
We believe human dignity is inescapable and irrevocable.
Amen and Amen.**

*HYMN *You Are Love* (Bulletin/Screen)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**LIFE AT FIRST**

Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you. If you have a prayer request, you are invited to fill out a prayer card (found in the pew-backs) and put it in the offering plate. The ushers will deliver it to the pastors.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**OFFERTORY**

***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: Compassionate God, we bring our gifts before you. Bless us with your holy imagination. Bless these gifts with your Spirit, that they may nourish both our faith community and the neighbors all around us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**One: Holy One,
these prayers carry our gratitude.
So much beauty and care sustains us.
We give thanks for this congregation,
for songs and stories and friends,
for space at the table.**

**All: Holy One, hear our prayer of thanksgiving.
May our gratitude make us gentle and generous
with ourselves, with each other, and with all.**

**One: These prayers carry our frustration.
So much desperate need surrounds us.
We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit.
We lament the systems that fail us.
We rail against the denial of dignity.**

**All: Holy One, hear our prayer born of struggle.
May our frustration make us fierce advocates
for ourselves, for each other, and for all.**

**One: These prayers carry our hope.
So much is possible when we remember
the healing, transforming, renewing power of your love.
In this silence, hear the prayers we raise to you:**

..time for silence

All: Holy One, hear the prayer of our hearts.
May our hope give us courage and care
to embody your love for all the world. Amen.

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.

***HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other* (Bulletin/Screen)

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG** *As We Depart* (Bulletin/Screen)

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis,
FPC Choir, Rose Gifford, Jan Brashler, Sherry Martens

Thanks to: Sound and Video Tim Richardson, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,
M&M Café Providers, Kiki Leman and Nursery Care Providers

Come as You Are

Sr. Deidre Brown

$\text{♩} = 120$

1. Come as you are, that's how I want you. Come as you are,
2. No need to fear, love sets no lim - its. No need to fear,
3. I came to call you, not just the vir-tuous. I came to bring peace,
4. Come as you are, that's how I love you. Come as you are,

7
feel quite at home. Close to my heart, loved and for -
love ne - ver ends. Don't run a - way, shamed and dis -
not to con - demn. Each time you fail, to live by my
trust me a - gain. No - thing can change, the love that I

12
giv - en. Come as you are, why stand a - lone.
heart-ened. Rest in my love, trust me a - gain.
pro - mise. Why do you think, I'd love you the less?
bear you. All will be well, just come as you are.

You Are Love

$\text{♩} = 140$

C Dm B \flat F C Dm B \flat

God, You are the cre - a - tor of the earth, the sky, the sun.

5 F C Dm B \flat Gm F C

All of your names are ho - ly on ev - ery tongue. God, you are the

10 Dm B \flat F C Dm B \flat F C

mid-wife; Bring - ing life out of pain. Com - for - ting those who are

14 Dm B \flat Gm B \flat F

suf - ring cov'ring our shame. You are grace, that's why we're

19 C Dm B \flat F C B \flat

grate - - ful You are love. You are

26 F A Dm B \flat F C

hope that's why we're hope - - ful. You are love. So

33 F C Dm B \flat F C Dm B \flat

guide our hands to the gar - den to cher - ish the earth and the seed. There's



You Are Love

37 F C Dm B \flat Gm 2



plen - ty of fruit in Your har - vest for ev - ery need. We'll

41 F C Dm B \flat F C Dm B \flat



swim in your ri-vers of jus-tice Though the cur-rent is might-y and strong You're

45 F C Dm B \flat Gm



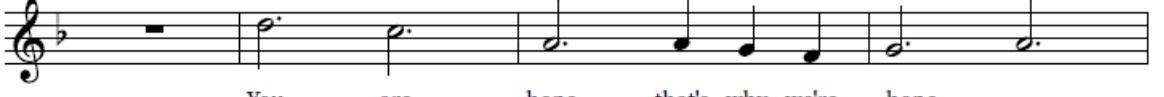
break-ing the chains of in-just - ice and we're com-ing a - long.

49 B \flat F C Dm B \flat F C



You are grace, that's why we're grate - ful You are love.

56 B \flat F A



You are hope that's why we're hope - - -

60 Dm B \flat F C



ful. You are love.

Help Us Accept Each Other

Fred Kaan

SALLEY GARDENS



Help us ac - cept each - oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
the tab - le of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

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As We Depart

Hunter Lynch

Cantor:



(As we de - part from this place we've gath - ered)
(Lord, from our rest, let us rise with pur - pose)
(In our res - ponse to the Word you've spok - en)

3 Congregation:



As we de - part from this place we've gath - ered
Lord, from our rest, let us rise with pur - pose.
In our res - ponse to the Word you've spok - en

5 Cantor:



(Fill us with love for the poor and scatt - ered)
(Come, turn our work in - to acts of wor - ship)
(Use us to mend all that hate has brok - en)

7 Congregation:



Fill us with love for the poor and scatt - ered
Come, turn our work in - to acts of wor - ship.
Use us to mend all that hate has brok - en.

9 All:



Let us be Let us be Let us be the arms of Christ.
Spir - it, breathe Spir - it breathe. Spir - it breathe on all we bring.
May we see May we see May we see your realm come near.

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



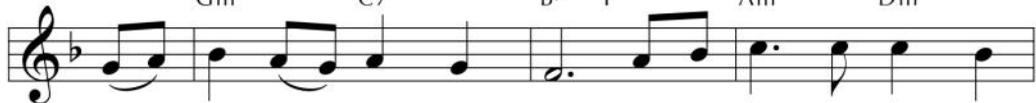
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Book Study Adult Education // Continues today at 11:15am in the Michigan Room as we study the book, *Turning Over Tables*, by Kathy Escobar.

Singing Resistance West Michigan // A Community Gathering, **Sunday, March 15th** at 3:00 pm, at Grace Church, 555 Michigan Ave. Singing Resistance is a nonviolent, music-based protest movement that uses collective singing to resist authoritarianism, support communities, and advocate for social justice. The Singing Resistance movement began in Minneapolis, Minnesota, following the fatal shootings of U.S. citizens by ICE agents. It mobilizes participants to sing publicly in streets, churches, and community spaces as a form of protest and solidarity, particularly against ICE enforcement actions and systemic violence. The movement emphasizes love, nonviolence, and community care.

Lenten Labyrinth Experience // March 26 from 6:30–8pm

Join Pastor Paul for a guided prayer labyrinth experience in the fellowship hall. The evening will include learning about the labyrinth, a guided walk, and time for reflection. All are welcome. Can't attend? The labyrinth is always open for personal prayer — consider walking it during Holy Week.

Men's Book Group // Our next meeting is Monday, **March 9** at 2:30pm discussing the book, *Coming Up Short* by Robert Reich. Contact Don Cowie with questions.

Dinners For Seven // If you would like to join a small group of people for a meal and conversation, sign up for the next gathering on **Saturday, March 14th** at 6:00pm. You are invited to also indicate if you would like to host one of the meals (host provides the main dish and others bring supporting dishes). Young families will be reimbursed for childcare. If you have any questions, call Chris Urbaniak.

FPC Holland PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are sharing a joy! // We assisted Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity in securing a PW Thank Offering grant from Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA). The award—up to \$40,000—will support their Rural Home Repair project in Allegan County. Our many little contributions to the Thank Offering help make projects like this possible nationwide. Thank Offering envelopes are available at the PW counter in the narthex.

Easter Breakfast // Our annual Easter Breakfast (9am) plans are in the works. The menu includes baked French toast, ham, beverages, fresh fruit and baked goods including gluten-free and nut-free.

The breakfast is free (donations are accepted) but we do need volunteers to help make this breakfast enjoyable for all.

Please volunteer on the sign-up table in the lobby. Hope you can join us!

- Saturday, April 4th at 10am to set up
- Sunday, April 5th at 8:00am to set-up and serve
- Clean-up at 11:00 after the service.
- Sign up to bring baked goods (No nuts, no nut oils, no nut extracts or flavors)
- Sign up to bring Gluter-free baked goods
- Sign up to bring fresh fruit

A Prayer for Reconciliation / /As we live into the realities of war, may we continue to advocate for justice and peace, work which begins within each of us. Here is the Litany of Reconciliation, from Coventry Cathedral, a prayer born out of the ashes of the destruction of the cathedral in WW II.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonors the bodies of men, women and children,
Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.

ADVOCACY FOR ALL

Third Sunday in Lent

Walter Brueggemann sees lament as essential to faith and justice. He argues lament is the language of people who refuse to accept the world as it is and dare to voice their pain, grief, and protest before God. Lament interrupts denial and makes space for truth-telling about suffering and injustice. By lamenting, communities resist silence and passivity, opening themselves to God's new possibilities.

Advocacy is the holy work of imagination. Once we lament, we must take loving action to help make things right. Advocating for ourselves and others is central to our faith because God imagines a world of wholeness, healing, and equity for all people. Scripture calls us not only to love God but also to love our neighbor in tangible, restorative ways. When we seek justice, we participate in God's work of making all things new.



LAMENT: DISABILITY JUSTICE

God of sacred embodiment, we cry out for justice long denied. We mourn the ways those with disabilities are excluded, erased, and underestimated. We grieve inaccessible spaces, harmful assumptions, and systems built for speed and perfection instead of care and dignity. We lament every time sacred bodies and minds are treated as problems to fix instead of lives to honor. The pain is deep. The barriers are many. How long, O God? How long until every body is welcomed, every voice valued, and every need met with love? Lord, have mercy.

Silence: Take a moment to reflect and lament as you prepare your heart for action.

ACT: DISABILITY AUDIT

Have you ever considered how someone with a hearing impairment would experience a Sunday at your church? What about someone with a visual impairment, limited mobility, or who is neurodivergent?

Even with the best of intentions, our communities often have barriers we've never noticed—because we've never had to. Jesus consistently moved toward those whom society pushed to the margins, making space where others had created obstacles.

This week, look at your church through fresh eyes. Can someone using a wheelchair access all areas with ease? Are there options for people with hearing impairments during worship? Do you offer large print bulletins or hymnals? Are there resources for neurodivergent members? Start by noticing, then identify one or two concrete steps your community could take. Sometimes the smallest changes make the biggest difference in helping someone feel truly welcome.

STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop
Paul Van Kempen

Lori Lepard
Marlene Field
Lori Klinesteker

Jane Oosterhouse
Thom Samuelson
Sue Stock

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DEACONS:

Class of 2027: Kristin Goddard, Lloyd Helder,
Michele Richardson, Leah Wallar

Class of 2028: Cathy Colten, Gail Hering,
Fred Mc Conkey

Class of 2029: Carleen Bauer, Marti Disler,
Mark Van Oostenburg

ELDERS:

Class of 2026: Luke Rund-Scott (Youth)

Class of 2027: Jen Laux Ludwig, Tom Salley

Class of 2028: Jon Kreple, Lauren Stouffer,
Chris Urbaniak

Class of 2029: Alana Cocanour, Paula Perkins

Children's Programming During Worship:

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. Available for the whole service.
- Celebration Time - 4 years of age through 1st grade. Available after Children's Time.

Education Offerings After Worship:

Education hour is from 11:15a -12:00p. *All are welcome to participate!*

- Adult Class - Michigan Room
- Youth - Youth Room
- Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade
- Nursery - Newborn through 3 years

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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