

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Christ Appearing to the Apostles, ca. 1460-1470, Vanderbilt University Collection

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933

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Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 5, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday in Easter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to maintain our worship environment, please turn off your cell phones. Thank you.

PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

CALL TO WORSHIP

Asa Harvey

The psalmist encourages us to praise God
for all the marvelous things God has done.

**We join with all creation in praise,
for God's love and faithfulness to us is endless.**

We sing because God chooses us out of God's great love.

**We choose God's love,
which bears us in fullness beyond compare.**

++HYMN #15 [GTG] All Creatures of Our God and King

Sometimes called, "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this brand, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Asa Harvey

Unison Prayer of Confession

**O God, whose love knows no bounds,
forgive us when we fail to reflect your loving kindness.**

**When we turn away from the goodness of your love,
call us back with the tender voice of a caring friend.**

**When we stumble over the gift of your grace,
lift us up with the strong arms of a loving parent.**

**When we are certain that we are alone in the chaos of this world,
shower us with peace, the gentle breeze of an evening rain.**

**When we cannot feel the flowing of your peace,
show us your love with the hands and feet of Christ, your love incarnate.**

**Forgive us, risen Christ, of all the ways we fall short,
and teach us to be agents of resurrection in the world.**

++Indicates to stand in body or spirit

Assurance of Pardon

Asa Harvey

Hear the good news of God's promise:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

++Response to Forgiveness #544 [GTG] Bless the Lord

***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

++PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Asa Harvey

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Be Still and Know

Be still and know that I am God (three times).

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ms. Megan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Asa Harvey

Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 89: 19- 37

Asa Harvey

¹⁹Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

²¹my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

²²The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

²⁷I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

²⁸Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm.

²⁹I will establish his line forever, and his throne as long as the heavens endure.

³⁰If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my ordinances,

³¹if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments,

³²then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with scourges;

³³but I will not remove from him my steadfast love, or be false to my faithfulness.

³⁴I will not violate my covenant, or alter the word that went forth from my lips.

³⁵Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.

³⁶His line shall continue forever, and his throne endure before me like the sun.

³⁷It shall be established forever like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies." Selah

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Blessed Assurance" arr Joel Raney

Annie Rowbal, soloist

One thing I'm sure of, one thing I know.

God walks beside me wherever I go.

He'll never leave me, he's there to stay.

God holds my hand, he lights my way.

God's love is perfect, his arms are strong.

He's right here with me, I'm not a lone.

When my heart's broken, he's there to mend.

He is my Savior, he is my Friend.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8: 1-11

The Rev. Charles Herrick

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received

a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Sermon

“Finding Our Father”

The Rev. Charles Herrick

++Hymn #137 [GTG]

He Came Down

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assign the answers to the congregation, rather than the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God’s people.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (all bread served is gluten free)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... who forever sing to the glory of your name

Sanctus (**Sung in unison**) #565[GTG] *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord’s Prayer (**unison**)

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.

Pastor: Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer after Communion

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring good news to the poor, to lift blind eyes to sight, and to loose the chains that bind. Keep us faithful in your service until that day when Christ comes in final victory, when we shall feast with all the saints in the joy of your eternal realm. We pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

Offering

Offertory Music

++ Doxology #607 [GTG]

***Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

Prayer of Dedication

++HYMN #317 [GTG] In Christ There is No East or West

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

BENEDICTION

BLEST BE THE TIE 306[GTG]

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

POSTLUDE

Sergei Kvitko

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MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

Participants in this morning's service:

Liturgist	Asa Harvey
Organist/Pianist	Sergei Kvitko
Music Director	Megan Higl
Bells of First Director	Darin Showalter
Preaching Pastor	The Rev. Charles Herrick
Pastor	The Rev. Stanley Jenkins

Concerns of the congregation:

In care facilities: Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)
Dianne Rector (Rosewood Adult Foster Care- DeWitt)

HEARING ASSISTANCE (The devices have been recently checked and they DO work!) **LARGE PRINT AND BRAILLE BULLETINS** (If you would like a Braille bulletin, please let the church office know ahead of time.) We also have **CUSHIONS** available if you find the pews uncomfortable! Please see one of the ushers if any of these aids to worship will enhance your participation in the service.

FLOWER CHART There are many dates available on the chart to celebrate special days in our church family. The new price is \$50. Simply sign up on the chart (in the office hall), indicate the occasion that you would like celebrated or honored (birthday, anniversary or memorial), write a check to the church and give it to Betsy, and we will order for you. If you would like to purchase or provide a silk arrangement for use when we don't have a fresh arrangement scheduled, please see Judy Whitman. Thank you! - Worship Committee.

"YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR MISSION! PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO GIVE picture with your phone and it make a donation. SECURELY ONLINE." Take a will take you to the website to



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 5

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
11:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – Chapel
3:00 p.m. Boogie Woogie Kid – Chapel
3:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall

Monday, May 6

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
6:30 p.m. Bells of First rehearsal – Choir room

Tuesday, May 7

7:00 a.m. City Election – All Day
9:00 a.m. GIL Class
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee – Library
6:00 p.m. Area Lansing Pastors – Parlor
6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen rehearsal – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Book Group - library

Wednesday, May 8

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
4:30 p.m. Choir potluck
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
7:30 p.m. Deacons meeting – Library

Thursday, May 9

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
9.5:00 p.m. NWI Food Distribution – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries– Library

Friday, May 10

5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, May 11

11:00 a.m. Chordsmen concert – chapel
3:00 p.m. Cabaret Concert

Sunday, May 12

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
11:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship - Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Reminder: The annual per capita payment to the Lake Michigan Presbytery this year is \$40.05. Hopefully every member can pay that amount. The check can go to the church noting per capita. Please consider paying the per capita for those who cannot afford to. Thank you.

Lugnut church outing on June 14. The game is 7:05 p.m. and are \$12. Anyone can sign up through Rich Blankenship by email, text or in person on Sundays.

LINK NEWS - Northeast/DeWitt & All Points North Link

We will share lunch and conversation every third **Saturday** of the month at 1 p.m. On **May 18** we will meet at Coral Gables East Lansing located at 2838 Grand River Ave. On **June 15** we will meet at Boston's Restaurant and Sports Bar at 3301 Centre Blvd: Lansing. Contact Pat Eenigenburg.

GL/West Delta Link Breakfast, is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11 @ 9:00 a.m.** We will meet at Dimitri's at 6334 W. Saginaw just east of Creyts and Saginaw Hwy. Contact Howard Powers.

South Lansing Link meets the second Sunday after worship. Check with Prince Solace and Bethanne Jenks for plans!

HOME Link will gather at Delhi Café on **Friday May 17 @ 11:30.** Contact Joyce Schaub.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (FPC) MEN'S GROUP ACTIVITY The annual ADOPT A RIVER clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 with registration at the *Impression 5 Science Center* in downtown Lansing beginning at 8:30 AM and lunch provided beginning at 11 AM. Our group will be assigned a section of the Grand River in Lansing to clean up by picking up trash and putting into plastic bags that will be provided. Please contact Brian Koon (517 886-9801 or b.koon@comcast.net) if you can help with the river clean-up.

On **Saturday, May 11, at 1:00 p.m.,** the **Capitol City Chordsmen** will present a concert here at our Church. We will feature popular Disney songs, with quartets and the chorus performing. As a thank you for allowing us to rehearse here at Church, the ticket price is waived for church members. We will all have fun.

10th Annual Hope in One Golf Outing, Aug. 7, Groesbeck Country Club.

This is a special year and North Westminster Presbyterian Church is recognizing those who have been a part of the golf event for 8 or 9 years. LFPC is one of them. Donors have

contributed over \$50,000 for the missions of Advent House and North Westminister Presbyterian. LFPC will be highlighted in the event program and in announcements.

ADULT FORUM

(11:30-12:30 in Litten Hall downstairs or on Zoom).
(Childcare can be available through this time.)

MAY 5

Justine Achuonjei

*My Faith Journey from the City of Wum in Cameroon
to Lansing, Michigan.*

MAY 12

What Might it Mean to Call our Country a “City on a Hill?”

Over the years, debates have raged over whether the United States is/ was/ was meant to be/ was founded as/ should be/ a “Christian Nation.” What might that even mean? Does it have any legitimacy today? This question is closely related to the “idealization” of America, even its possible uniqueness among the nations of the world as it made its inevitable way westward. At the same time, there is a long history, even while we were yet colonies, of a *brokenness* to our society. That is, there have been serious clashes short of secession based not only on politics, but religion, geography, “States’ rights,” etc. That plague comes down to our own fragmented time. What do you make of this national debate is a crucial election year? **Charlie Herrick** will attempt in one hour to draw together insights from recent books and articles to lead us.

MAY 19

Potluck Sunday

Come celebrate with our graduates,
savor great food and enjoy the coming of spring!
See announcements elsewhere.
(no Adult Forum today)