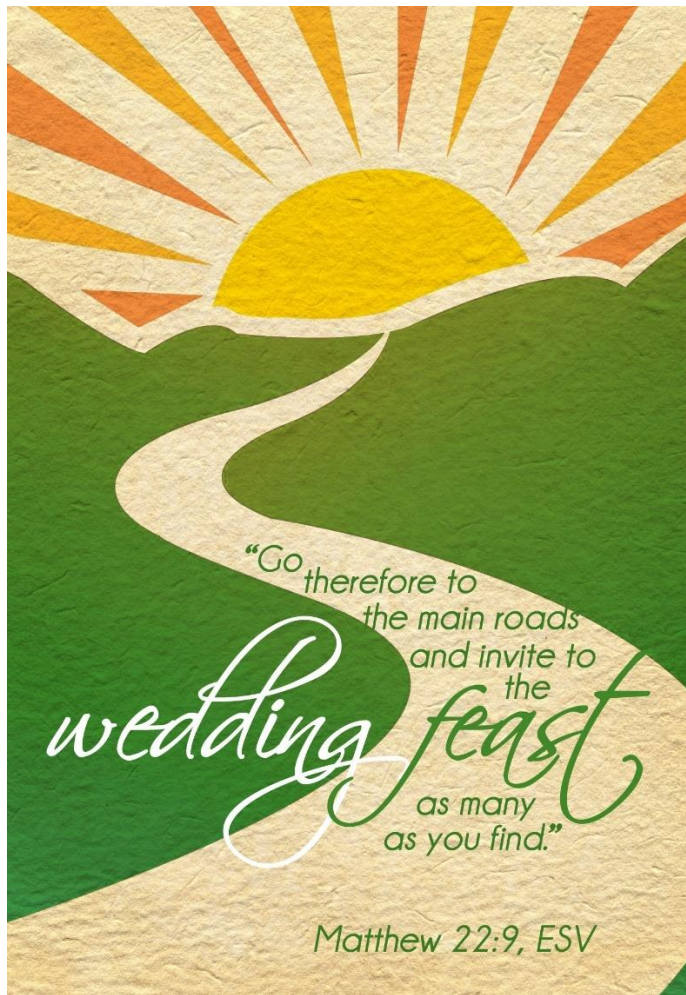


# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



510 W. Ottawa Street ■ Lansing, Michigan 48933

(517) 482-0668 [www.lansingfirstpres.com](http://www.lansingfirstpres.com)

Facebook – Lansing First Presbyterian

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

October 15, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**PRELUDE** Christians, Join to Sing, arr Mitchell Eithun Bells of First

**CALL TO WORSHIP** A Responsive Reading of Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Elliot Ryser

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD  
or proclaim in full God's praise?**

<sup>3</sup>Happy are those who act with justice  
and always do what is right.

<sup>4</sup>**Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people,  
and visit me with your salvation;**

<sup>5</sup>that I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people,  
that I may glory with your inheritance.

<sup>6</sup>**We have sinned as our forebears did;  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.**

<sup>19</sup>They made a bull-calf at Horeb  
and worshiped a molten image;

<sup>20</sup>**thus they exchanged their glory  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.**

<sup>21</sup>They forgot God their Savior,  
who had done great things in Egypt,

<sup>22</sup>**wonderful deeds in the land of Ham,  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.**

<sup>23</sup>So you would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses your chosen stood in the breach,  
to turn away your wrath from consuming them.

**++GATHERING HYMN #10 [GTG] Sing Glory To the Name of God**

*This sweeping paraphrase of Psalm 29 conveys a sense of the Jewish reverence for the sheer power of God's name, regarded as too holy for mortal tongues to pronounce. In keeping with its appointment for Trinity Sunday, the final stanza gives the psalm a Christian interpretation.*

## SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Elliot Ryser

Unison Prayer of Confession

**True God from True God,  
we have not built a golden calf,  
but we have worshiped idols.  
We have put our trust in what we build with our own hands.  
We find security in what we can hoard  
instead of trusting your provision.  
We listen to lies that spread hatred and division  
instead of the radical truth of your word.  
Forgive us.  
Melt down our idols until we see only you  
and fix our sight on your way alone.**

++indicates to stand in body or spirit

Assurance of Pardon

Elliot Ryser

God shows us a different way—  
a way of truth, honor, justice, purity, and excellence.  
This path is open to all of us if we reach out and accept God's forgiveness.

**Thanks be to God! We will live as God's people,  
forgiven and freed.**

++Response to Forgiveness

447[GTG]

We are Forgiven

447

## We Are Forgiveness

G Am D7 Gsus G C  
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am  
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G  
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

**++PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Elliot Ryser

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

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

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Ms. Megan

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Elliot Ryser

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts  
 and your Spirit govern our lives  
 until at last we see the fulfillment  
 of your realm of justice and peace;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Exodus 32:1-14

Elliot Ryser

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.  
 Listen to the word of the Lord.

<sup>1</sup>When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." <sup>2</sup>Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup>So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" <sup>5</sup>When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." <sup>6</sup>They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." <sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Keep these words in your heart.

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "The Lord is My Shepherd" by John Rutter Chancel Choir

*The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.*

*He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.*

*He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness,*

*For his Name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.*

*For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.*

*Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:*

*Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.  
But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, forever.*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Matthew 22:1-14

Pastor Bob Higle

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.  
Listen to the word of the Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup>But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

Keep these words in your heart.  
The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"

Pastor Bob Higle

To the Lord our God, Alpha and Omega,  
be all glory and honor forever.  
**Amen.**

**++HYMN**

**#13[GTG]**

The Mighty God with Power Speaks

*This paraphrase, set to a familiar English folk melody, focuses on the opening narrative section of Psalm 50 without attempting to summarize God's speeches in the latter portion of*

*the psalm. Both parts bear witness to God's sovereignty, God's justice, and God's providence.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

George Bennett

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.**

(Prayers continue)

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.**

**AMEN #571 [GTG] Amen**

# 571

# Amen

Capo 5: (Am) (Em) (F) (Am) (D7) (Em7) (A)  
Dm Am B<sup>b</sup> Dm G7 Am7 D

A - men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: Curt Oliver, 1997  
Music © 1997 Curt Oliver

AMEN (Oliver)

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

Pastor Bob Higle

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,

to present yourselves as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to God.  
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

“Ose Shalom” by John Leavitt  
*Ose Shalom bimromav, hu ya’ase shalom aleynu,  
Veh’al kol, kol Yisrael,  
Veh’imru imbrue Amen.*

*(May the one who creates peace on high bring peace to us and to all Israel. Amen)*

**++ Doxology #717[GTG] “For the Life That You Have Given”**



# 717 For the Life That You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in  
Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these  
gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;  
heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to  
love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION / THANKSGIVING

God of the harvest,  
you are continually planting the seeds of your love

in our world and in our lives.  
As we bring our gifts to you,  
may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope,  
planted deeply in our community.

**Amen.**

**++HYMN #540 [GTG] Farewell, Good Friends**

*(English, Hebrew, English - as a round)*

*While it is true that the Hebrew word shalom means “peace” and that it is used to greet people and bid them farewell, its larger sense is a feeling of contentment, wholeness, and harmony. Singing this round in the original language is one way to share in that fuller meaning.*

## **BENEDICTION**

The blessing of the holy, triune God,  
who was and is and is to come—  
first and last,  
beginning and end,  
Alpha and Omega—  
be with you now and always.

**Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love the Lord your God  
with all your heart and soul and mind and strength,  
and to also love your neighbor as yourself.

**Amen.**

**BLEST BE THE TIE 306[GTG]**

*(We encourage you to reach out to those around you in the congregation)*

***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                       | Elliot Ryser     |
| Organist/Pianist                | Sergei Kvitko    |
| Director of Music               | Megan Higle      |
| Dir. Church Life/Comm. Outreach | Prince Solace    |
| Prayers of the People           | George Bennett   |
| Preaching                       | Pastor Bob Higle |

Church service leaders:

|                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Bell Choir Director              | Darin Showalter      |
| Pastor (on sabbatical thru Oct.) | Rev. Stanley Jenkins |

Our **CHILD CARE** Room, located up the ramp from the Pine St. entrance is available during Worship and Adult Forum. Staff: Lily Ferris, Makenna Davis and Sidney Knapp.

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

**CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY are in honor of the 93rd birthday of Elaine Scoville.**

**HEARING ASSISTANCE** (The devices have been checked to ensure their functioning.) **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 SECURELY ONLINE."**  
**Take a picture with your phone and it will take you to the website to make a donation.**



# THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## Sunday, Oct. 15

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. Congregation Meeting for Elections  
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum - Litten Hall  
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee meeting  
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. Lansing Symphony Orchestra - chapel

## Monday, Oct. 16

9:00 a.m. GIL classes  
10:00 a.m. Church staff meeting, library  
5:30 p.m. Yoga – yoga room  
6:00 p.m.-9 GIL Classes  
6:30 p.m. Bells of First rehearsal – choir room

## Tuesday, Oct. 17

9:00 a.m. GIL classes  
2:30 p.m. Building and Grounds - library  
6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band Rehearsal – Litten Hall  
6:00 p.m. MidMichigan Photo Officers - library  
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen - chapel

## Wednesday, Oct. 18

9:00 a.m. GIL classes  
10:30 a.m. Bible Study – Zoom  
4:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir rehearsal – chapel  
5:00 p.m. OpenSpot Theatre – Litten Hall  
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room  
7:00 p.m. Session Meeting - GIL room

## Thursday, Oct. 19

9:00 a.m. GIL classes  
12:00 p.m.-2 NWI Food distribution – Litten Hall  
6:00 p.m. Quilt Guild – Litten Hall  
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study – Library  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir room

## Friday, Oct. 20

5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

## Saturday, Oct. 21

## Sunday, Oct. 22

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall  
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – chapel

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Call for Congregation Meeting:** A Special Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Michigan, is called for today, **Sunday, 15 October 2023**, immediately following service. The purpose is to elect Officers of the Church including Session, the Board of Deacons, Financial Review Committee, and Nominating Committee

**NAME TAGS:** Would you like a name tag? Or does your old one need to be replaced? Please email Pam Blair [blairkids3@yahoo.com](mailto:blairkids3@yahoo.com) or call/text 517-281-9099. The deadline to get names to the printer is November 12, 2023.

## **Children's Faith Formation**

October 15: Join Ms. Kathy as we focus on Psalm 23, page 172 "What Is God Like?" In our Bible Story book. Our craft will be about still waters!

October 22: Join Ms. Ann on a reading of Psalm 28 using page 154, "Help Me God". We plan on making our own style of a stain glass window!

October 29: Join Ms. Pam where we make our own armor! Our story will be "Speak Up, Jeremiah" from page 148 in our Bibles.

**Church Orientation** will be after service October 22, 2023, in the parlor. If you have questions or just want to learn more about Lansing First Pres. this is for YOU. We will discuss what it means to be a Presbyterian and what it means to be a friend or member at Lansing First Pres. Bring your questions and any ideas on October 22. Please RSVP to Pam Blair [blairkids3@yahoo.com](mailto:blairkids3@yahoo.com) or call/text 517-281-9099.

**Handbell choir** rehearsals are Mondays, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome! Contact Darin Showalter for more information.

BIBLE STUDY continues each Wednesday at 10:30 AM by ZOOM. This study is led by Pastor Bob Higle and attended by members of FPC and Plymouth. All are welcome! We explore readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. As there are many lessons from both the Old Testament and New Testament, we will choose one or two lessons for our study time on Wednesday. A link will go out in an all-church email on Monday highlighting those lessons. Here is a link to the Revised Common Lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> In the event you want to join us in person, please contact Bob Higle by phone at 517-512-8018, Here is the Zoom link to connect: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215658039?pwd=c21vSVhNQlJ2eHNBNmxZU1pyWWwydz09> Meeting ID: 832 1565 8039, Passcode: 661418

# ADULT FORUM

(11:15-12:15 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom. Childcare provided.)

## OCTOBER 15

A **MATTHEW 25 Initiative** presentation on both Building Congregational Vitality and Dismantling Structural Racism. As a “Matthew 25” and a “More Light” church, we will look at and discuss these two of the three tenets of the Matthew 25 initiative from PCUSA material.



## OCTOBER 22

The third **MATTHEW 25** tenet on Eradicating Systemic Poverty will be presented with a video and a launch of the book “Poverty, by America” as an All Church Read.

## OCTOBER 29 - Holiday baskets. CPR/AED training Light lunch will be served.

Join the whole congregation as we begin the process of filling holiday food baskets with non-perishable items. Perishable items will be added later.

Please see p.2 of the October First Epistle for details, or call the office.

The first **CPR/AED training** for participants who signed up, given by **Geoff Blair** from the Emergency and Building Security Committee, will be held today in Litten Hall after holiday baskets have been filled (about 12:45).

Please see p. 8 in the October First Epistle for details, or call the office.

## NOVEMBER 5

**Building/Emergency Procedures Drill** will be given by the Emergency and Building Security Committee.

## NOVEMBER 12

A Pre-Thanksgiving offering:

**Where Our Food Comes From**, with **Dr. Elliot Ryser**