

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Vincent van Gogh, Divinity Library, Vanderbilt University

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 482-0668 / www.lansingfirstpres.com
Facebook – Lansing First Presbyterian
Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR OUR LORD'S DAY

MARCH 23, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

LENTEN CANDLES

PETER AND JUSTINE

ACHUONJEI

CALL TO WORSHIP

JOE ROSS

O God, you are our God;
**our souls thirst for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.**

We have looked upon you in the sanctuary;

we have seen your power and glory.

Our lips will praise you as long as we live;

we lift up our hearts and call on your name.

Let us worship God!

++ HYMN #415[GTG]

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together.

The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

JOE ROSS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
though you lovingly tend us,
we have not put forth the good fruits of your Spirit.
Our consumption poisons the earth.**

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

**Our violence threatens our neighbors.
Our greed exploits the poor.
We must seem a waste of time,
but don't give up on us yet, O God.
In your power to abundantly pardon,
forgive us for the sake of Christ,
and imbue us with love, peace,
goodness, and faithfulness.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

JOE ROSS

Incline your ear and listen,
so that you may live!
God makes with us an everlasting covenant,
the sure, steadfast love
known to Moses, David, and the ancestors
and revealed in Jesus upon the cross.
Trust in the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

++ RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #425 [GTG] (verse 1)

***Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God, most holy,
To your presence we have come; give us now your love.***

++ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

JOE ROSS

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

JOE ROSS

O Lord of light and salvation,
let these words of Scripture
live not only in our mouths,
but in our hearts,
that we will embody your truth

and confess with our lives
that Jesus is Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55:1-9

JOE ROSS

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM “We Shall Walk Through the Valley” arr. by Undine Smith
Moore CHANCEL CHOIR

*Lord, we shall walk in peace.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.
If Jesus, himself shall be our leader, we shall walk through the valley in peace.
There will be no trials there.
Lord, we shall walk in peace.*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:1-9

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

13 At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were

worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

SERMON

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

++HYMN #438[GTG] Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

The Lord be with you

and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them 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 #469[GTG] Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 469

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your

Spir-it in this place. Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren

pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley" arr by Douglas E. Wagner
CHANCEL CHOIR

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself;
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.
Jesus died for our salvation, was crucified all by himself;
Oh, nobody else could do it for him, he went to die all by himself.
Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry him home.
Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry him home.
On that hill, his spirit left him; he breathed his last full breath on earth.
Oh, nobody there could know his suffering; he gave his life that we might live.
When we walk this lonesome valley, we shall not walk it all alone;
For Jesus, our Lord, will be there with us, and guide us to the journey home.*

++Doxology #608 [GTG]

Praise God, from Whom 608
All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all
peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -
more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN #816 [GTG] If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

This hymn is a testimony of experience. The original seven-stanza German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author-composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.

BENEDICTION

Blest Be the Tie That Binds #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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INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:

JOE ROSS

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

MEGAN HIGLE

ORGANIST:

SERGEI KVITKO

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH LIFE / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

PRINCE SOLACE

PASTOR:

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:

DARIN SHOWALTER

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNS are available.

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, March 23

10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.

Worship service – Sanctuary
Adult Forum – Litten Hall
Children’s Faith Formation
Victory in Jesus Ministries - Chapel

Monday, March 24

9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.-4
5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

GIL classes
AARP Tax assistance – Litten Hall
Yoga – Yoga room
Bells of First rehearsal – Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 25

9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.-4
6:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

GIL classes
AARP Tax assistance – Litten Hall
Mid-MI Photo Officers - Library
Glen Erin Pipe band rehearsal – Litten Hall
Capital City Chordsmen rehearsal - Chapel

Wednesday, March 26

9:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

GIL classes
Yoga – yoga room
Wired Word Bible study – Zoom
Session meeting – GIL room

Thursday, March 27

9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

GIL classes
NWI food distribution – Litten Hall
Chancel Choir rehearsal – Choir room
Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study - Library

Friday, March 28

5:30 p.m.

Yoga – Yoga room

Sunday, March 30

10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.

Worship service - Sanctuary
Adult Forum – Litten Hall
Children’s Faith Formation
Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Looking for ways to volunteer at Lansing First Presbyterian Church?

The Christian Education Committees (Adult and Youth) are hoping YOU might be interested in helping shape programming, events and materials for our church family.

Please see Ceci Anderson, Alyse Collins or Megan Higle for more information. YOU are welcome and needed!

Adult Education (Ceci Anderson, chair) meets, currently, on the First Monday at 2:00 p.m. (in person and on zoom).

- Adult Forum Programming
- Bible Studies
- Lent & Advent Devotionals
- Library
- Book Group

Youth Education (Alyse Collins, chair) meets, currently, on the First Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (via zoom).

- Sunday School
- Child Care Room/Staff
- Children's Moment
- Christmas Pageant
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Outdoor Playground
- Youth Fellowship w/Holt Presbyterian Church

Per Capita Reminder: The annual per capita payment to the Lake Michigan Presbytery for 2025 is **\$42 per member**. This is for every member to consider. The check can go to the church noting "per capita." Please consider paying a per capita for those who cannot afford to.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER are just around the corner!

Special and Creative Ways to experience the season....

PALM SUNDAY (April 13) - Morning Breakfast, Readers Theater, Chancel Choir

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 17) - Family Centered Worship Journey

GOOD FRIDAY (April 18) - Congregational Reading of the Passion Narrative, Chancel Choir, Soloists

EASTER (April 20) - Brass, Chancel Choir, Children's Worship & Egg Hunt

Presbyterian Youth Triennium



WHO'S INVITED? All current 8th-12th-graders... YOU can come with your youth group, or on your own or even with a friend. You will be a part of the Lake MI delegation either way.

WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN? July 28-31

You will travel to Louisville with the group from around the presbytery. There may also be a mission component offered in conjunction to the event. Details to follow.

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a tri-annual event that has been occurring since the 1980's! The last triennium in 2022 was cancelled due to COVID restrictions...BUT WE'RE BACK, and ready to show you what this is all about. Back in the day, **youth stood in lines for hours, just to get the best seats for worship!** If you have a young person, or know one who you think might like to participate, please contact **Sallie Campbell, Registrar for Lake MI Presbytery:** salliecampbell@gmail.com, to sign up, or answer any questions you might have. Please consider participating in this experience. It won't happen again for another three years, so this may be your only chance. **YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID IT!!** You can also hear from past participants in the event at presbyterianyouthtrienium.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (INCLUDING ADULT FORUM AND CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION)

11:15-12:30 after worship service in Litten Hall-all

Childcare is available through this time - please let Childcare staff know if this is needed.

During Lent, starting March 9, adults and children will start out together and meet up again at the end in Litten Hall for an intergenerational effort.

March 23

Adult Forum - "Make Disciples: Be A Witness" - Let's practice this discipline in community - singing, sharing and brainstorming.

Children's Faith Formation - "Make Disciples: Be A Witness" - Rev. Stan Jenkins, teacher

March 30

Adult Forum - "Make Disciples: Baptize" - How can you share your baptism with others? Let's welcome all into God's family!

Children's Faith Formation - "Make Disciples: Baptize" - Pr. Bob Hagle, teacher

April 6

Adult Forum - "Make Disciples: Teach and Learn" - Disciples are learners and learning takes place over a lifetime! We teach others by what we say and do.

Children's Faith Formation - "Make Disciples: Teach and Learn" - Ms. Megan, teacher