

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



*"Then you will know
the truth,
and the truth
will set you free."*

John 8:32

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. - 12:00 & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 29, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Reformation Sunday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

CALL TO WORSHIP

Charles Taylor

God is our refuge and strength:

we will not fear.

Though the earth shakes,

we will not fear.

Though the waters swirl around us,

we will not fear.

Though the nations rise and fight,

we will not fear.

God is our help in the time of trouble:

we will not fear.

++GATHERING HYMN #371[GTG] New Songs of Celebration Render

This Genevan tune (created for Psalm 118 but also used for Psalm 98 in the 1562 edition of the Genevan Psalter) has worked successfully with several English texts. Here it sets a 20th-century paraphrase of Psalm 98 that owes much of its effectiveness to the author's skill with multisyllabic words.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Charles Taylor

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of the ages,

you have been faithful to us,

but we have not been faithful to you.

You have established covenants with us,

but we have not upheld our part.

We have distorted your word for our own gain.

++indicates standing where able.

**We have claimed you as exclusively ours.
 We have focused on power more than discipleship.
 We beg your forgiveness.
 Reform us again and make us into the image of your true church.**

Assurance of Pardon

Charles Taylor

The Lord tells us "I will forgive their iniquity,
 and remember their sin no more",
**The story continues. God is not done with us.
 We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

++Response to Forgiveness **447[GTG]** We are Forgiven

447 We Are Forgiven

The musical score is written on three staves in G major, 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." The guitar chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

++PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Charles Taylor

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

Charles Taylor

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.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 31:31–34

Charles Taylor

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Listen to the word of the Lord.

¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Keep these words in your heart.

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Praise His Holy Name!" by Keith Hampton

Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.

Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy Name!

THE GOOD NEWS: JOHN 8:31–36

Pastor Bob Higle

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Listen to the word of the Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Keep these words in your heart.

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "REFORMED AND ALWAYS REFORMING"

Pastor Bob Higle

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

Amen.

++HYMN

#481[GTG] I Believe in God the Father

This text is a 21st-century metrical paraphrase of the Apostles' Creed (in the manner of Calvin's Strasbourg liturgy). Its connections with Reformed tradition are further strengthened by being set to the tune created for Psalm 42 in the 1551 Genevan Psalter (see also no. 87).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gwen Botting

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.

571

Amen

Capo 5: (Am) (Em) (F) (Am) (D7) (Em7) (A)
 Dm Am B^b 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

CALL FOR 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.

Offertory Anthem: "How Firm A Foundation" arr by Alice Parker

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
 What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?
 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed! For I am Thy God and will still give thee aid.
 I'll strengthen Thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
 For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
 When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall by thy supply:
 The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
 The should that to Jesus hath fled for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
 That soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"*

++Doxology

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

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 (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

#275[GTG] A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Bob Higle

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 heart and soul and mind and strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Amen.

++Blest Be the Tie that Binds

(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	Rev. Charles Taylor
Organist/Pianist	Sergei Kvitko
Director of Music	Megan Higle
Dir. Church Life/Comm. Outreach	Prince Solace
Prayers of the People	Gwen Botting
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 a silk arrangement.

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. 29

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Holiday Baskets & CPR Training- Litten Hall
11:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation – Children's Education Room
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – chapel

Monday, Oct. 30

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

Tuesday, Oct. 31

9:00 a.m. GIL classes
5:00 p.m.-9 GIL Classes
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen - chapel

Wednesday, Nov. 1

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
6:00 p.m. MidMIPhotoClub mtg- Litten Hall
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
6:30 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, Nov. 2

9:00 a.m. GIL classes
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study – Library
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir room

Friday, Oct. Nov. 3

5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, Nov. 4

Sunday, Nov. 5

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Downtown LINK group is meeting TODAY at the home of Mark and Ann Harvey after church.

NAME TAGS: Would you like a name tag? Or does your old one need to be replaced? Please email Pam Blair 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 after service at the same time as Adult Forum

October 29

Join Miss Pam as we discover what is our own "Armor of God"! Our Bible Story is "Speak Up, Jeremiah!" (Page 148), and we will create our own "sword" Bookmarks.

November 5

Join Miss Megan in the Beatitudes (Page 324 "A Blessings Map"). Snack, Coloring and a Beatitudes Wheel is on deck!

November 12

So Exciting! We will begin our work on our Christmas Pageant, "The King's Birthday" - songs, spoken lines, costumes!

November 19

So Exciting! We will continue our work on our Christmas Pageant, "The King's Birthday"

November 26

Decorate the Church Day! We will have OUR Christmas Tree to decorate (Parlor) and then will go into the Sanctuary to rehearse our Christmas Pageant.

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

Adult Bible Study: occurs Wednesdays at 10:30 AM by ZOOM. All are welcome as we explore two readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. Here is a link to the lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> Here is the Zoom link to connect: <https://bit.ly/3Q2iBKZ> Meeting ID: 832 1565 8039, Passcode: 661418
Pastor Bob Higle / bob.higle@gmail.com / 517-512-8018

ADULT FORUM

(11:30-12:30 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom. Childcare and Children's Faith Formation provided.)

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

Thanksgiving – Thanks but No Thanks?

Elliot Ryser

Our traditional Thanksgiving holiday along with several others has continued to decline in popularity compared to some recently adopted holidays. However, there is at least one thing for which we are all universally thankful, namely the food that sustains us. Come and hear how many people it takes to get your Thanksgiving dinner to the table. It's more than you think.