

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Sermon on the mount, Laura James, 2010, 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 30, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

LENTEN CANDLES

GEOFF AND PAM

BLAIR

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

Happy are those who are honest with God.

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.

Therefore, let all who are faithful
offer prayer to the Lord in times of distress.

**For God is our refuge
and protects us in times of trouble.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice!

Let us shout for joy! Let us worship God!

++ HYMN #442[GTG]

Just As I Am, without One Plea

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author, Charlotte Elliot, wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess

that we keep silent when we should speak.

**We see iniquity and the injustices of the world,
yet are content not to call them out.**

We withhold kind words,

++Indicates Congregation standing as able

**yet are quick to speak in judgment.
Forgive us, O God.
Direct the way we should go
and help us to use our voices
to spread your grace and truth.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.
Be glad and rejoice,
for in Christ, we are a new creation.
Thanks be to God!

++ 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

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

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

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

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.**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM "My Song Is Love Unknown" by Karen Marroli CHANCEL CHOIR
With Tigran Shiganyan, violin and Yu-Chen Lin, cello

*My song is love unknown my Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
Oh who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow,
But such disdain! So few the longed-for Christ would know!
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!
Sometimes they crowd his way, and his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.
In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth may have;*

*In death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was his home; but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
Here might I stay and sing; no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend!
My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me.*

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:1-12, 7:12, 15-20

GWEN BOTTING

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

12 "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **16** You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns or figs from thistles? **17** In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Thus you will know them by their fruits.

SERMON

GWEN BOTTING

++HYMN #418[GTG] Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GWEN BOTTING

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 "He Comes to Us as One Unknown" arr. John Ferguson
CHANCEL CHOIR

*He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
A pulse of being tired, a pulse of being stirred.
He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;
Half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky of night within the
heart.
He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;
Yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees, a voice to
call us home,
He comes in love, as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame, a life, a death, a saving Name,
For every child, for every child of earth.
He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;*

The Christ in all the Scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown, our Savior and our Lord.

++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 #771 [GTG] What is the World Like

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn; the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

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

*PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE USE CAMERAS TO BROADCAST VIDEO OF OUR CHURCH SERVICES. LICENSED MUSIC STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE, LICENSE #A-731144. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED."

INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	CHRISTOPHER VENETIS
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	MEGAN HIGLE
ORGANIST:	SERGEI KVITKO
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH LIFE / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:	PRINCE SOLACE
PASTOR:	REV. STANLEY JENKINS
PREACHING:	GWEN BOTTING
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 30

10:00 a.m.	Worship service – 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 - Chapel

Monday, March 31

9:00 a.m.	GIL classes
9:00 a.m.-4	AARP Tax assistance – Litten Hall
5:30 p.m.	Yoga – Yoga room
6:30 p.m.	Bells of First rehearsal – Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 1

9:00 a.m.	GIL classes
9:00 a.m.-4	AARP Tax assistance – Litten Hall
6:30 p.m.	Glen Erin Pipe band rehearsal – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m.	Capital City Chordsmen rehearsal - Chapel
6:30 p.m.	Book Group - Parlor

Wednesday, April 2

9:00 a.m.	GIL classes
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9:00 a.m.	Youth Volunteers – Library
10:30 a.m.	Lectionary Bible Study – Zoom
4:30 p.m.	Lansing Children’s Choir rehearsal – Choir room
5:30 p.m.	Yoga – yoga room
6:00 p.m.	Wired Word Bible study – Zoom
6:00 p.m.	MidMIPhoto Club – Litten Hall
6:30 p.m.	Mission Committee - Zoomm

Thursday, April 3

9:00 a.m.	GIL classes
10:30 a.m.	Library Committee - Library
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal – Choir room
7:00 p.m.	Victory in Jesus Ministries Bible Study - Library

Friday, April 4

5:30 p.m.	Yoga – Yoga room
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Saturday, April 5

7:00 p.m.	If Music Be Food – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
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Sunday, April 6

10:00 a.m.	Worship service - 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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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

Betsy’s last day as our **Church Administrator** will be May 1st. We are going to miss her, but we wish her well! If you know anyone who might apply for the position, please contact Steve Fitton.

MSU concert and Food Pantry fundraiser coming up April 5, 7:00 p.m. down the street at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St. If Music Be Food. MSU College of Music performs pieces by Hindemith and Berlioz (clarinet,

double bass, flutes, hard, trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba). Admission is free. Bring non-perishable or monetary donation. Free parking behind church. www.ifmusicbefood.com

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.

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 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 Higle, 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