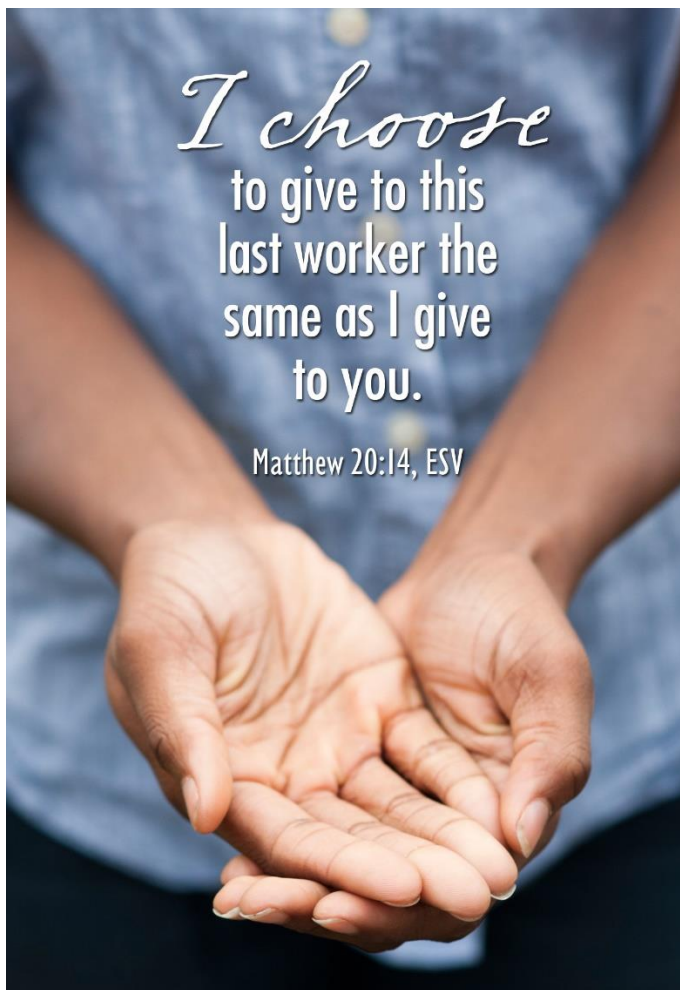


# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



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

September 24, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

## CALL TO WORSHIP a Responsive Reading of Psalm 145:1-8

Jean Fellows

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## ++HYMN #408 [GTG] There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit

*This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship (Doris Akers). She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.*

## SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Jean Fellows

Unison Prayer of Confession

++indicates to stand in body or spirit

**God of generosity,  
 we find ourselves bitter  
 when faced with your abundant grace.  
 We believe ourselves more deserving than others.  
 We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive,  
 instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show.  
 Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce.  
 Forgive the double standards we hold.  
 Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace,  
 and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon

Jean Fellows

The grace of God is boundless,  
 poured out freely for all of us.  
**We will receive this gift of forgiveness,  
 and trust God to transform our lives!**

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

447

## We Are Forgiven

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

Jean Fellows

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

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Barb Amundsen

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jean Fellows

Faithful God, how blessed are those  
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.  
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit  
so that we may glorify you  
in the company of the faithful;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Jonah 3:10—4:1-11

Jean Fellows

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

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>The Lord GOD appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup>But God said

to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Keep these words in your heart.

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CHORAL ANTHEM**

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" by John Rutter

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.*

*The purple headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky;*

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one:*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell, how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor Bob Higle

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Listen to the word of the Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one

has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

**SERMON**

"Pain Under Anger"

Pastor Bob Higle

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

**++HYMN #291[GTG]** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*As the author / composer (James K. Manley) reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas reinforce a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prince Solace

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

### 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.

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "The First Song of Isaiah" by Jack Noble White, Katie Sundeen, leader

*Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.*

***Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.***

*Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon His name;*

**REFRAIN**

Make His deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that His name is exalted,  
sing the praises of the Lord, for He has done great things.

**REFRAIN**

Cry aloud, in habitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
For the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

**REFRAIN (twice)**

Refrain

C<sub>All</sub> G Am F Dm7

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be a -

Gsus G7 Em7 Am C7 F G7

fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de -

Em7 Am Dm Gsus C F C (F) Fine

fense, and God will be my Sav - ior.

**++ 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 (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

## Prayer of Dedication

Merciful and gracious God,

you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness.  
With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you.  
Bless these gifts and bless our lives  
that together we may share your mercy and grace  
for the world you dearly love.

**Amen.**

**++HYMN #36 [GTG] For the Fruit of All Creation**

*Originally called, "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night." (AR HYD Y NOS)*

## **BENEDICTION**

The blessing of the one God—  
Spirit, Son, and Father—  
be with you now and always.

**Alleluia!**

Lead a life worthy of your calling,  
giving glory to God in all things.

**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

**\*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."**



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS



### INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

Participants in this morning's service:

Liturgist	Jean Fellows
Organist/Pianist	Sergei Kvitko
Director of Music	Megan Higle
Dir. Church Life/Comm. Outreach	Prince Solace
Prayers of the People	Prince Solace
Preaching	Pastor Bob Higle

Church service leaders:

Bell Choir Director	Darin Showalter
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Our **CHILD CARE** Room, located up the ramp from the Pine St. entrance is available during Worship and Adult Forum every Sunday. Staff includes 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 silk arrangements.**

**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, Sept. 24

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. Adult Forum  
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – sanctuary  
1:00 p.m.-5 Lansing Symphony Orchestra - chapel

## Monday, Sept. 25

9:00 a.m. GIL Class  
10:00 a.m. Church staff meeting, library  
5:30 p.m. Yoga – yoga room  
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal - sanctuary  
5:00 p.m.-9 GIL

## Tuesday, Sept. 26

8:00 a.m.-10 Mobile Farmers Market prep – kitchen  
6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band Rehearsal – Litten Hall  
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen - chapel

## Wednesday, Sept. 27

9:00 a.m. GIL classes  
9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. MSU Ubuntu Workshop – Litten Hall  
10:30 a.m. Bible Study – library/Zoom  
4:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir rehearsal – chapel  
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

## Thursday, Sept. 28

9:00 a.m. GIL classes  
8:00 a.m.-10 Mobile Farmers Market prep – kitchen  
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Bible Study – Library  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir room

## Friday, Sept. 29

5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

## Saturday, Sept. 30

## Sunday, Oct. 1

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall  
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – Chapel

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**World Communion Sunday next week!** Next Sunday, Oct 1, is World Communion Sunday. Christians all over the world are celebrating communion on the same day to emphasize that together we are the body of Christ. We are celebrating with a display of international breads. Almost every culture in the world has a bread that is special for them. We are inviting the congregation's bakers to help with the display. Anything goes, from a plain loaf of white bread to a dark rye or chocolate bread, braided or flat breads – your creativity is the boundary! If you would like to contribute a bread or breads to the display, please let Gwen Botting ([gwenbotting9496@gmail.com](mailto:gwenbotting9496@gmail.com)) know what you intend to bring, and bring it to church NO LATER than 9:15 next Sunday morning. Gwen's phone: 616-755-2221. A text is fine. After the service, you may take your bread home, trade with someone else, or take it downstairs for our international potluck. Thank you!

### **CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION**

Today, September 24

Join Ms. Megan as we explore the story of "The Generous Landowner" (Matthew 20:1-16) page 226 in your Growing In God's Love Bible.

We will be assembling our fish banks and begin making cards for the Deacon's Holiday Baskets.

October 1

World Communion Sunday!

Enjoy a potluck with your church family.

Cards to color/decorate will be available!

October 8

Join Ms. Kathy as we explore "The Ten Commandments" (Exodus 20:1-21), page 166 in your Growing in God's Love Bible.

Craft sticks, markers and glue will abound!

The Lansing/East Lansing AIDS Walk is returning on Sept. 30 for the first time since the COVID pandemic. The event promotes community involvement with a local vendor fair along with a two-mile walk to remember those we have lost to the epidemic as well as celebrate those who continue to live with HIV.

The walk begins at Edgewood United Church of Christ, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing, MI. The walk begins at 11 a.m., but tables for registration and community engagement beginning at 9 a.m.

This event has proven crucial in raising funds to support programs and services provided by the Lansing Area AIDS Network. The goal is to raise \$25,000.

For questions about participating or donating, reach out to [events@laanonline.org](mailto:events@laanonline.org). Your sponsorship donation can be made on-line or by mailing a check, payable to LAAN to LAAN, ATTN: 2023 Walk. 913 W. Homes Rd. Ste. 115, Lansing MI 48910

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

**BIBLE STUDY** happens Wednesdays at 10:30 AM, led by **Pastor Bob Higle**. We will meet each week in our library or by Zoom® as we explore readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week will include readings from the Old Testament and readings from the Epistles (sometimes Acts) and Gospels. Here is a link to the Revised Common Lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> In the event you want to join us, but are unable to do so in person, here is the **Zoom link to connect:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215658039?pwd=c21vSVhNQlJ2eHNBNmxZU1pyWWwydz09>  
Meeting ID: 832 1565 8039 Passcode: 661418

A church wide email will be sent out Mondays prior outlining the readings. We will finalize our readings when we gather each Wednesday. All are welcome!

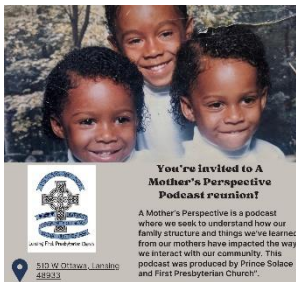
## ADULT FORUM

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

**SEPTEMBER 24**

### PODCAST REUNION – A MOTHER’S PERSPECTIVE

“**A Mother’s Perspective**” is a podcast where we seek to understand how our family structure and things we’ve learned from our mothers have impacted the way we interact with our community. In this session we will hear from members of our congregation and local community as they reflect on the influences of motherhood.



**OCTOBER 1**

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

It's time for our traditional **potluck**. Plan to come and bring a dish from your heritage or a family favorite. (No Adult Forum)

**OCTOBER 8 – OUR NEW WEBSITE** will be revealed!