

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 13, 2020 10:00 a.m.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

First Presbyterian Church
Lansing, Michigan



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Collins

WELCOME

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sherri DeMarco

Leader: Our God is majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and worthy of our highest praise.

People: Who is like the Lord?

Leader: Our God blew back the waters, prepared a path through the sea, and appeared as a pillar of fire to light the pilgrim way.

People: Who is like the Lord?

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

People: Let us sing to the Lord who triumphs gloriously!

OPENING HYMN

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven (GTG #619) FPC Section Leaders

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 10 is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore-bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sherri DeMarco

Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we have fallen short, for patience when we have stubbornly turned away from you. Why are we slow to show the same mercy to others? We keep track of wrongs and cling to old hurts, rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves. We strive to be more faithful, Lord; we want to be more loving. So, we kneel before you once again to ask for patience and grace. Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows forth from us through acts of love.... (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sherri DeMarco

Hear the good news! Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Amen.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (sung)

Megan Higle

Be still and know, that I am God. (3 times)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sherri DeMarco

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 114

Sherri DeMarco

- ¹ When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
² Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.
³ The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.
⁴ The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.
⁵ Why is it, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?
⁶ O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?
⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
⁸ who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Do Not Be Afraid"

FPC Section Leaders

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Chosen and beloved, you are my own. Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you: by your name I called you for my own. Look up, a new thing I am doing; it springs forth; look and see it grow. Through wilderness I'll make a level highway; through deserts, make streams and rivers flow... I am God, who blots out your transgressions; for my own sake I do not chide or blame. Only this much I ask, that you love me and seek me and honor my name... The Lord, the Holy One of Israel has promised to lead us on our way, and we who love and worship God our Maker will listen to hear the Spirit say:...

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged^[a] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

SERMON

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

HYMN*When We Are Living* (GTG #822)

Katie Hill & Darin Showalter

This hymn began as an orally transmitted stanza reflecting on Romans 14:7-8 and was expanded by a Spanish-language hymnal committee to offer additional examples of the many dimensions of life, thereby strengthening the recurring affirmation that we belong to God through them all.

When We Are Living 822

Pues si vivimos



1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.
 3 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
 4 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find

1 *Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra Él vi - vi - mos,*
 2 *En es - ta vi - da fru - tos hay que dar*
 3 *En la tris - te - za y en el do - lor,*
 4 *En es - te mun - do por do - quier ha - brá*



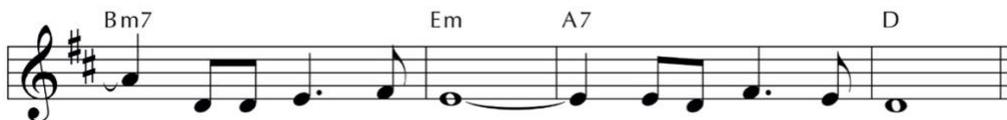
and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.
 Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing.
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace,
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind,

y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra Él mo - ri - mos.
y bue - nas o - bras he - mos de o - fren - dar.
en la be - lle - za y en el a - mor,
gen - te que llo - ra y sin con - so - lar.



Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 When we are giv - ing, or when re - ceiv - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 but when we help them, or when we feed them,

Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
Sea ya que de - mos o que re - ci - ba - mos,
sea que su - fra - mos o que go - ce - mos,
Sea que a - yu - de - mos o que a - li - men - te - mos,



we be - long to God; we be - long to God.
so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.

PRESENTATION OF 3RD GRADE BIBLES

Kathy Banghart, Matt Ringlever, Rev. Stanley Jenkins

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(Prayers continue)

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Prayer For Peace" by David Cherwein

FPC Section Leaders

O God of love. O King of peace, make wars throughout the world to cease; The wrath of nations now restrain. Give peace, O God, give peace again.

Remember, Lord, thy works of old. The wonders that thy people told; Remember not our sin's dark stain. Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord? Where rest but on thy faithful word? None ever called on thee in vain. Give peace, O God, give peace again!

INVITATION TO GIVE

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

You may mail your offering into the office OR click this link: [Click Here for Online Giving](#)

DOXOLOGY (GTG #607)

Megan Higle

607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology

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. A - men.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. (From Brief Statement of Faith, 11.3)

HYMN

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness (GTG #850) Ashley Wright & Ben English

Setting this translation of a Chinese hymn to Western plainsong enhances the universal context of the opening stanza. This familiar pattern of creation, covenant, and incarnation in the first three stanzas leads to a far-reaching final stanza that looks both backward and forward.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

850 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness



1 In a deep, un-bound-ed dark-ness, long be-fore the first
2 Though our world is ev-er-chang-ing, you are con-stant, firm,
3 Joy trans-forms our lips to boast-ing on-ly in your match-
4 God of Ha-gar, God of Sa-rah, God of no-mad A-



light shone, you, O God, be-yond all mer-it worked a
and sure, faith-ful to your cov-enant prom-ise. Trust-ing
less grace, send-ing Christ to dwell a-mong us, Word made
bra-ham; God of Mir-yam, God of Mo-ses, Fi-ery



won-der faith makes known: in your mer-cy, in your
you, we live, se-ure: sing-ing prais-es, sing-ing
flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav-ior, Friend and
Pil-lar, great I AM: lead us home-ward, lead us



mer-cy, you em-braced us as your own,
prais-es, long as heart and breath en-dure,
Sav-ior, in whose life we glimpse your face,
home-ward, to the love-feast of the Lamb,



ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

RESPONSE Blest Be the Tie That Binds (GTG #306, verse 1)
*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Megan Higle

POSTLUDE

Sergei Kvitko

Annual License w/Podcasting Renewal, Category C average weekly attendance 101 to 200. A-731144 for Apr 16, 2020 - Apr 15, 2021
Annual reprint with podcasting | C, 101 to 200 average weekend attendance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominating Committee is accepting nominations and self-nominations for

- Session Elders (3 year term)
- Board of Deacons (3 year term)
- Nominating Committee (1 year term)
- Audit Review Committee (1 year term)

Call or email Bill Collins (bill@pipercollins.com)
Or Linda Diepenhorst (dldiepenhorst@comcast.net)

PROGRAMMING DETAILS FOR OUR CONVERSATIONS ON RACE SERIES AND JUST MERCY BY BRYAN STEVENSON

These two projects are essentially running concurrently because the subject matter of the book we are reading is so closely allied with our emphasis on the current state of racial disparities in our community and the country. As a result, our programming has taken a direction that lends itself to both the book and our COR discussions. The following is a lineup of selections for discussion through the fall. All done by Zoom!

Thursday, September 24

Discussion on Laws that Adversely Affect
Minority Populations

Melvin McWilliams, PC

Attorney at Law

Thursday, October 1

Discussion on Trying Children as Adults

Sherri Guess, Guess Law Offices, PLLC

Thursday, October 15

Discussion on Community Policing in Lansing
Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green

Thursday, October 22

Book Discussion Part I – Just Mercy by Bryan
Stevenson

Thursday, November 5

Book Discussion Part II – Just Mercy by Bryan
Stevenson

Thursday, November 19

Movie Discussion – Just Mercy, starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx

Sunday, November 22

Two-Church Worship Service at Union Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Stanley Jenkins preaching.

The final details of the service are in progress. In-person worship has not been approved for either church, however the combined service will occur via Zoom!