

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 29, 2020



by David Hile



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Today's Call to Worship is based on Psalm 130.

The cover art for today is *Embrace* by Ypsilanti artist David Hile, who writes, "Love is an emotion. It is expressed through touch. The drawing is a visual representation of this truth — the lines representing the two people overlap and intersect into a single form. Where does one begin and the other end? Their embrace is cocooned within the shared love, care, and protection for one another that's symbolized by the dot pattern that surrounds them." Especially now with Covid-19 as we are practicing self-distancing perhaps more than ever we realize that we humans require touch as a means of expressing love. As parents and grandparents are separated from their children and grandchildren, and friends are unable to shake hands and hug one another, we all long for the day when we can again express our love through touch. May God be with us all. Stay well.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude on "Hyfrydol"

Craig Phillips

As the voluntary begins, let the time and the music help to center you for worship.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Healing God, in our brokenness,
we come together to call to you in your mercy,
to make us whole again.

All: Wholeness—giving God, listen to our prayers.

One: Restoring God,
even as we seek to be renewed yet again,
we gather to worship you.

All: God, our quiet-center, listen to our prayers.

One: Foundational God, we come here to thank you.
In the depths of your Holy Being, we find peace.
Home in your sacred heart, we find rest.

All: God – our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you.

* HYMN 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

Please see the hymn on the next page.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: You call us to be your voices in this world

All: and we stay silent.

One: You call us to be your hands in this world

All: and we keep them hidden.

One: You call us to be your feet in this world

All: and we go our own way.

One: When we meet those who are doubting

All: and say nothing, forgive us.

One: When we meet those who need your touch

All: and do nothing, forgive us.

One: When we are called to take up your cross

All: and carry nothing, forgive us.

Breathe life into these bones. Bring freedom to these lives that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God.

SILENT CONFESSION

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

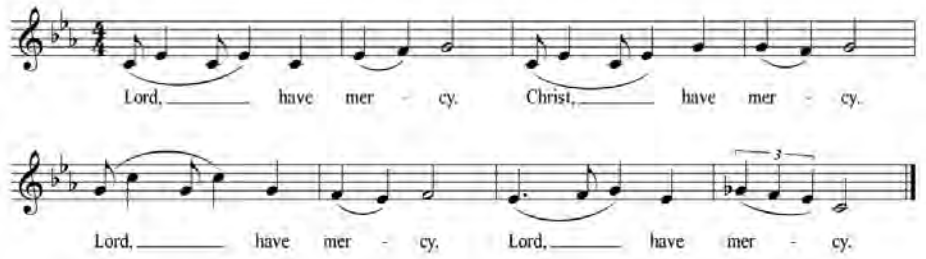
pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Prayer for Illumination is a prayer that is offered before the scriptures are read, and before a sermon is preached. This prayer asks the Holy Spirit to open our minds and our hearts to the Word so that we may not only hear, but understand and believe.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 130

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

NEW TESTAMENT READING 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1

The grass withers; the flower fades—

the word of our God endures forever.

SERMON

Uncovered

Rev. Rogers

RESPONDING

* HYMN 791

For You, My God, I Wait

SPRINGTIME



1 For you, my God, I wait with hope born
 2 Lord, hear my plead - ing voice, and let me
 3 If you should list my faults, the sins of
 4 For e - ven from the deep I know you
 5 And once my soul is still, in you I
 6 O God, you are my hope; I know that



of the Word. Like sleep - less ones who
 know you hear! As sleep - less ones feel
 heart and hand, like sleep - less ones who
 hear my cries. Like sleep - less ones who
 find my rest, at peace as though a
 you for - give. Your love re - deems me



long to dream I wait and call my Lord.
 rest ap - proach, I know my God is near.
 groan at dawn I know I could not stand!
 dream at last, I ease my wea - ry eyes.
 child up - on a gen - tle moth - er's breast.
 from the depths so I may rise and live.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

How Long, O Lord?

Iona Community

Andrew Frazier, Soloist

How long, O Lord, will you quite forget me?
 How long, O Lord, will you turn your face from me?
 How long, O Lord, must I suffer in my soul?
 How long, how long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord, must this grief possess my heart?
 How long, O Lord, must I languish night and day?
 How long, O Lord, shall my enemy oppress?
 How long, how long, O Lord?

Look now, look now and answer me, my God;
 give light, give light lest I sleep the sleep of death,
 Lest my enemies rejoice at my downfall,
 look now, look now, O Lord.

The offering is a time we return to God the blessings we have been given, including through tangible acts of stewardship and service. Please support this church financially. The needs of our church and community are great. We will still lend support to the mission programs we love, our neighbors in need, and our members who are hurting. Our staff must be paid. None of those needs are diminished by this virus. We are not passing an offering plate. We are also not taking a pass on doing what we must to keep First Pres as vital during this pandemic as we have ever been. Know that we are grateful to you. Give online at the website, use "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523), scan the QR code below, or put a check in the U.S. mail. If you need assistance with any of the online options, call Anna Miller, Finance Manager. **Never has your giving mattered more.**

Scan the QR code below with your phone to go directly to our giving page.



* **Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

SENDING

* **HYMN 797** *We Cannot Measure How You Heal* YE BANKS AND BRAES
Please sing stanzas 1 and 2. The hymn is on the next page of this bulletin.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**
Please sing stanza 3 of Hymn 797, We Cannot Measure How You Heal.

* **CLOSING VOLUNTARY** *Prelude on "Hyfrydol"* Jan Bender

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Why are we here? Our 2020 Lenten Theme at First Pres asks that very question. And yet, our global predicament leaves us answering the question, why we are not here? Our family of faith gathers today — but in a virtual way. As you listen by radio, computer, or cell phone, we recognize that we are not here — together because we are following government orders and guidelines about illness and disease. But dear friends, you are here, with us. Our great God has given us the Holy Spirit. As painful as it is to be physically apart, we are still together, we are still united by the One God who brings our hearts and spirits together in this worship service. We give all glory and praise to our Savior for our connectiveness to one another. To that healing, renewing God, today we ask for strength, patience, and protection. We seek hope, healing, wholeness, and a love that transcends all distance. Into all of our homes, rooms, and hearts, Christ appears now, offering us unmistakable peace, and welcoming us. Here all are loved and all are welcomed. No matter who you are, where you are, and who you love, this is a safe place for you and we open our arms to (*virtually!*) embrace you. Not just in this hour of worship but in all times. We can't wait until we see you again in person!

Music copyright: All music is reprinted under OneLicense.net A-720542. All rights reserved.

Cover art copyright: Used by personal permission of the artist.

The Call to Worship, based on Psalm 130, is adapted from "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year B, © 2012 Joan Stott. **The Prayer of Confession**, written by John Birch, is posted on "Faith and Worship" (<http://www.faithandworship.com/>).

* HYMN 797

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or
 2 The pain that will not go a - way, the
 3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet
 guilt that clings from things long past, the
 some have come to make a - mends, as

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where
 fear of what the fu - ture holds, are
 hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your
 pres - ent as if meant to last. But
 pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

hands, though blood - ied on the cross, sur -
 pres - ent too is love which tends the
 let your Spir - it meet us here to

vive to hold and heal and warn, to
 hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the
 mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to

car - ry all through death to life and
 pri - vate ag - o - nies in - side, the
 dis - en - tan - gle peace from pain, and

cra - dle chil - dren yet un - born.
 mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.
 make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because we are not sure how long our hiatus from gathering for worship and events will continue, we are listing only the events still on our calendar beginning March 31. Based on recommendations from the CDC, all events are subject to future cancellation. In the uncertainty of this time we urge you to check back for updates and read all communications from First Pres.

Everything about our response to Covid 19 can be found at our website, or our Facebook page. If you are not on our weekly email list and want to receive updates, you can subscribe at our website for that list.

Please reach out by call or note or Facebook messenger to those you are not seeing while First Presbyterian is closed. We need one another more than ever. We need to hear one another's voices by phone and email and text message, and keep in touch as this virus expands in our community. Some small groups at First Pres may be meeting using an online platform, such as *Zoom* or *Go to Meet*. If you need information about these platforms, and want to gather friends for Bible study or prayer from your home, using your computer, and need the tools, contact the Church Office so that we can offer assistance.

Our daily Lenten email devotional, written by members of this congregation, is sent each day to those who have subscribed. It is a nice way to stay spiritually alive and in touch with one another. If you have not subscribed yet you may do so by visiting www.firstpresbyterian.org.

If you are struggling or concerned and would like pastoral care, please call the Church Office or email Rev. Rogers.

Lenten groups in homes are not meeting at this time.

SAVE THE DATES!

Please check our website frequently for updates.

Sunday, April 19, 11:00 a.m. — "Cancer: Now What?"

A 6-week adult ed discussion group begins on this date and ends on Sunday, May 24. The class will use *Cancer: Now What?*, a book by Kenneth C. Haugk, founder of Stephen Ministries, as a discussion resource. The book is available in the Church Office (\$30).

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. — 2020 Men of Faith Breakfast

Our speaker is the Rev. Matthew Nickel, Pastor of Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit and former First Pres Resident Minister.

Sunday, May 3 — New Member Class

Contact either Rev. Rogers or the Church Office if you would like to join First Pres. All are welcome! While the class is May 3, the joining takes place on Sunday, May 17.

Sunday, May 15 — Resident Minister Alumni Sunday

Returning to the pulpit is the Rev. Brennan Blue, First Pres Resident Minister 2011–2013. Brennan is Senior Pastor of St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Liz Call-Boyce, Finance Assistant

Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister

Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator

Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator

Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant

Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator

Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families

Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor

Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator & Parish Nurse

Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**
Ann Arbor | Michigan

1432 Washtenaw Avenue

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734 • 662 • 4466

www.firstpresbyterian.org