



First
Presbyterian
Church *of Ann Arbor*

THIRD SUNDAY *in* LENT
March 23, 2025
8:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship



The Vine Dresser and the Fig Tree
by James Tissot



8:30 AM WORSHIP | MARCH 23, 2025
Third Sunday *in* Lent

** Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

GATHERING

Welcome and Centering

*Call to Worship

It is in God that we live, and move, and have our being.
And so, in every moment of every day,
we dance with God, and God dances with all creation.

We don't often notice that we're dancing,
but sometimes, every once in a while,
God's music and movement breaks through, and we know!

When we gather together, as community of faith,
we gather to help one another become open to the presence of God;
we gather to help one another be intentional in that relationship; we gather to
help one another, and in helping one another,
we worship God.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, we ask for forgiveness. Though you should guide us,
we inform ourselves. Though you should rule us, we control
ourselves. Though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. For
we think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too
remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them,
we are of all people most miserable. Heal our confused mind
with your word, heal our divided will with your law, heal our
troubled conscience with your love, heal our anxious hearts with
your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave
himself for us....**

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading

Judges 4:17-22; 5:24-27.

Meditation

Sandy Talbott

Prayer for Courage

We pray for courage in the face of fear and uncertainty. Help us to take bold steps towards our dreams and to stand up for what is right. Give us the strength to face challenges head-on and to persevere even when the path is difficult. Let our courage inspire others to find their own bravery. We ask for your presence when we feel afraid, and for the reassurance that we are never alone. Thank you for your constant support.

May we find the courage to speak up against injustice and to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves. Help us to confront our fears and doubts, trusting in your guidance and strength to see us through. Let us be courageous in our relationships, willing to be vulnerable and open in our interactions with others.

We pray for those who face dangers and threats daily, asking for your protection and strength for them. Thank you for the examples of courage we see in others. Help us to draw inspiration from their bravery and to cultivate that same courage in our own lives. **Amen.**

RESPONDING & SEALING

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Poem

I want to apologize to all the women I have called pretty
by Rupri Kaur

Benediction





9:30 AM WORSHIP | MARCH 23, 2025
Third Sunday *in* Lent

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and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.

GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Lamentations of Jeremiah
Recorder Ensemble

Pierluigi da Palestrina

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Melissa Anne Rogers

Faith in Action

*Call to Worship

Worship is a place to rest.

We breathe deeply here.

We still our aching bones.

We sit in the quiet.

We surround ourselves with music.

Worship is a place to rest.

Worship is a place to grow.

We listen for God's word.

We invite it to challenge us.

We lean in with curiosity.

We ask questions.

Worship is a place to grow.

So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

For where two or more are gathered,

God is always there.

Let us worship our gracious God.

*Hymn 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.

We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.

We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

There are also days when we fail to act.

We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.

We find excuses and justify our inaction.

God, forgive our imbalance.

Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.

Show us how to do the same....

Silent Prayer

Kyrie

Sally Ann Morris



Please sing 5 times

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Passing of the Peace

*Congregational Response

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

**Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A Conversation with Young Disciples

David Prentice-Hyers

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9

The grass withers, the flower fades;
The word of the Lord endures forever.

Sermon

Melissa Anne Rogers

RESPONDING

*Hymn 441	<i>Hear the Good News of Salvation</i>	NETTLETON
Offering of Tithes and Gifts		Rev. Mark Mares
Offertory	<i>Come to the Water</i> Chancel Choir	John Foley
O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord; Without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, Except for the Lord?		
And let all who seek, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord; Without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, Except for the Lord?		
And let all who toil, let them come to the water. And let all who are wary, let them come to the Lord; All who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, Except for the Lord?		
And let all the poor, let them come to the water. Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord; Bring the children without might. Easy the load and light, Come to the Lord.		

*Doxology		OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, 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.		

SENDING

*Hymn 435	<i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i>	IN BABILONE
*Charge and Benediction		
Choral Response	<i>God to Enfold You</i> Chancel Choir	John Bell
Closing Voluntary	<i>Fugue in G Major, Op. 37 No. 2</i>	Felix Mendelssohn

✠ ✠ ✠



11:30 AM WORSHIP | MARCH 23, 2025

Third Sunday *in* Lent

** Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

GATHERING

Opening Voluntary

Pouring the Water

Welcome & Centering

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Worship is a place to rest.

Side B: We breathe deeply here.

Side A: We still our aching bones.

Side B: We sit in the quiet.

Side A: We surround ourselves with music.

Side B: Worship is a place to rest.

Leader: Worship is a place to grow.

Side A: We listen for God's word.

Side B: We invite it to challenge us.

Side A: We lean in with curiosity.

Side B: We ask questions.

Side A: Worship is a place to grow.

Leader: So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

**All: For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.
Let us worship our gracious God.**

***Opening Hymn 65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.

We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation.

We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

There are also days when we fail to act.

We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.

We find excuses and justify our inaction.

God, forgive our imbalance.

Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.

Show us how to do the same....

Silence is kept.

Assurance of Grace

Passing of the Peace

As you pass the peace with your neighbor, you are invited to share about something that brings you life this Lenten season.

Hymn 441

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NETTLETON

**Hear the good news of salvation:
Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!
Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.**

**All the sins I have committed,
to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish;
Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.**

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 55:1-9
Luke 13:1-9

Homily

Melissa Anne Rogers

RESPONDING

Response Activity

There are four different prayer areas across Monteith Hall. Feel free to choose a station(s) that suits your prayer needs.

SENDING

*Hymn 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*Benediction

...we go out in peace,
to love, to serve, to imagine.



CARRYING WORSHIP WITH US

1. Take a daily or weekly walk outside in nature, whether it's a park, garden, or simply around your neighborhood. Or Sign up to do one of our Lenten Walks and think about all the ways life is bubbling up around you.
2. Write short a "thank you" note to people in your life, expressing appreciation for small acts of kindness or the beauty they bring into your life.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive and diverse faith community, led by the Holy Spirit, who welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to explore, nurture, and deepen their faith. Through worship, shared discussion, participation, and service, we aim to make God's love visible in our congregation, community, and world.

NEW TO FIRST PRES?

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad. Sign it then pass it down to others. Interested in membership? Contact Rev. Rogers, mrogers@fpca2.org.

PRAYER

If you would like someone to pray with you, stop by the Prayer and Compassion Room after the 9:30 am service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & CHILDCARE

Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary or Monteith Hall. We also offer childcare from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm for children ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Ask an usher for directions.

SYMBOLS OF LENT

Throughout the season of Lent, the sanctuary is adorned with symbols that invite us into reflection and repentance:

- **Purple Fabric:** The color of Lent, purple, is displayed in the fabric hangings from the wooden beams, symbolizing penitence and preparation.
- **Curly Willow:** The bare branches on the Reredos, framing the cross, represent the dry and barren land of the wilderness, recalling Jesus' time of fasting and temptation.
- **Gold Cross Painting:** Below the main cross hangs a gold cross painting created in 2022 by artist Lucy Baum of Atlanta, GA. The painting was inspired during a Lenten recital given by David Hufford, in which Lucy interpreted the music through her art.
- **Bumblebee:** Representing the energy and movement of *Allegro Vivace* from *Symphony No. 5 for Organ* by Charles-Marie Widor, the bumblebee symbolizes vitality amid the stillness of Lent.
- **Wheat:** Symbolizing nourishment and labor, the wheat reflects *Theme and Variations on ORA LABORA* by Richard Fitzgerald, reminding us of the work and sustenance found in our faith.
- **Thorns:** Representing Christ's suffering, the thorns evoke *The "Wedge" Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548* by Johann Sebastian Bach, a piece marked by tension and release.
- **Jerusalem Cross:** The shape of the painting reflects the Jerusalem Cross, a symbol of Christ's command to share the gospel to the four corners of the earth.

May these symbols deepen our reflection and draw us closer to the heart of Lent.

Leading in Worship

LEADING IN WORSHIP

8:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Sandy Talbott

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Rev. Mark Mares
Scott Ellsworth Lay Reader

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Mares
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

MUSICIANS

9:30 WORSHIP

Chancel Choir
Recorder Ensemble
Linda Speck, *Recorder Ensemble Director*
Tyrese Byrd, *Conductor*
David Hufford, *Organist*

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

PRAYER PARTNERS

Anne Andrus

GREETERS

Jeanette Swartz
Ro and Anne Andrus

USHERS

Beth Gerwig
Spaulding Clark
Carol Smith
Paul Smith
Angela Yang
Delena Harrison
Pat Tamblyn
Diane Tamblyn
Aidan Majorprice
Chloe Majorprice
Holly Major

FLOWERS

During Lent, the Sanctuary remains free of flowers, symbolizing the transition from celebration to repentance. Instead, the arrangement is displayed in the Social Hall.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Larry and Magdaline Ouimet by Mark Ouimet and in loving memory of Bob Snyder by Michele Snyder-Madden and their children Derek, Matthew, and Jessica.

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First Presbyterian worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online. If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, please speak with an usher.

Today in Faith Formation

ADULTS _____

10:45 AM

EXPLORING THE FAITH

Social Media and Youth Mental Health: Time (Part 2)

Speaker: Jane Harness

Host: Jane Dutton

Lewis Room

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

The Parables of Jesus

Host: Ed Koster

French Room

FIRST FRIENDS

Christianity and World Religions:

The Wise Men

Host: Carole Pawloski

Curtis Room

CHILDCARE & NURSERY _____

AGES 5 AND YOUNGER

9:15 AM to 12:15 PM | Room 101

CHILDREN & YOUTH _____

10:45 AM

Children & Youth classes will not meet this morning.

Calendar

TODAY

Rotating Shelter Host Week & Alpha House Care Week

8:30 am **Worship with Communion** | Monteith Hall

9:30 am **Social Hour** | Welcome Center

9:30 am **Worship** | Sanctuary

10:30 am **Social Hour** | Social Hall

10:45 am **Adult Faith Formation** | Classrooms

11:30 am **Worship** | Monteith Hall

3:00 pm **Lenten Program: Healing from Hurt** | Lewis Room

7:00 pm **Small Group Bible Study** | Wahl home

THIS WEEK

Tues Mar 25 **Lenten Home Worship** | 6:00 pm | John & Barb DeLancey home

Wed Mar 26 **Barclay Bible Study** | 10:30 am | Vance Room

Thur Mar 27 **Journeys Bible Study** | 1:00 pm | Vance Room

Thur Mar 27 **Ukirk Bowling** | 8:30 pm | Revel & Roll

Fri Mar 28 **Habitat for Humanity House Build** | 9:00 am | Ypsilanti

Announcements

THE SEASON OF LENT _____

Lenten Weekly Walks

MARCH 6 - APRIL 13

As part of our communal Lenten journey we will take weekly walks along the scenic trails in our community. All ages and stages of life welcome. A pastoral liaison will guide the group. Day, location, and time are posted on our website. Register: fpca2.org

Lenten Home Worship

**TUESDAYS, MARCH 11 - APRIL 8
6:00 PM**

Please join us for a time of fellowship, a simple meal and brief worship service in members' homes. Limited to 25 people per gathering. Register: fpca2.org

CARE _____

Caring Hands

Do you like to cook? If you're willing to help, you can join our email list for meal requests and sign up as needs arise. Please email Mel Rogers at mrogers@fpca2.org to be added to the list.

CHILDREN & YOUTH _____

Summer Music & Fine Arts Camp

JULY 28-AUGUST 1

Rising 2nd - 9th graders are invited to join us for an exciting week at our Summer Music & Fine Arts Camp, featuring the musical Elijah. Camp runs daily from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, culminating in a special Musical Proclamation during worship on Sunday, August 3. Register online at fpca2.org

MUSIC & FINE ARTS _____

ART EXHIBIT

Meditation and The Shabbat Project

Experience the work of internationally renowned fiber artist Laurie Wohl, known for her unique unweavings and interfaith message. Her latest collections, Meditation and The Shabbat Project, are on display in the Social Hall through June.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN _____

Presbyterian Women's Spring Retreat: Consider the Lilies

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5
9 AM - 2 PM, SOCIAL HALL**

Come relax and rejuvenate at our spring retreat, Consider the Lilies, on Saturday, April 5. An optional "Gentle Yoga" session will begin at 8 am, followed by a continental breakfast, an inspiring speaker, fun breakout sessions, and a boxed lunch. Childcare will be available. The registration fee is \$20 per person to cover the cost of food. All women are invited. Bring a friend! Please register by March 21, at fpca2.org.

WORSHIP _____

Participate in the Creation of New Paraments

Beth Taylor is creating new Ordinary Time paraments and invites you to contribute! Share a small fabric piece or token (button, tie, broken earring, etc.) that reflects your life, faith, or connection to the church. These will be quilted into meaningful paraments. You may include a brief note about your item. Drop off contributions in the Welcome Center.



MARCH MISSION MADNESS

MISSION FAIR

March 30, 2025
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | SOCIAL HALL

Join us for the Mission Ministry Fair on Sunday, March 30, following the 9:30 am worship in the Social Hall! Snack on appetizers and discover how you can get involved and make an impact through our various mission opportunities. Meet ministry leaders, learn about upcoming projects, and find ways to serve.



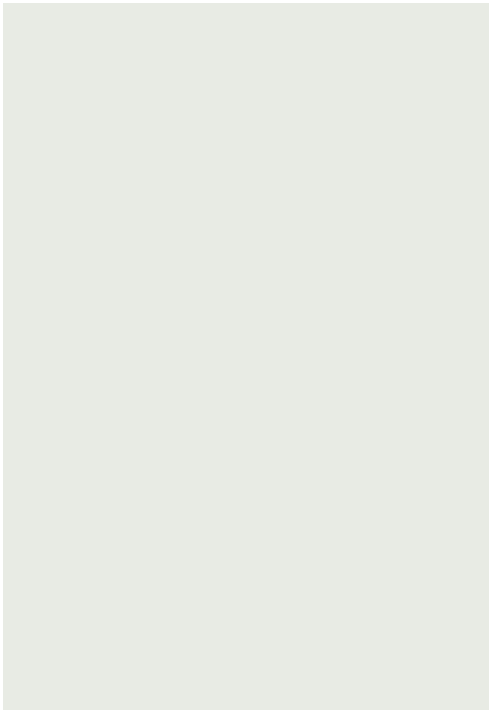
Worship Activities

LUKE 13:6-9
Parable of the Fig Tree

Color in the story of the fig tree. | Illustration by Rev. Anna Strickland



Draw Draw a picture of you when you were little.



Color Color the things that help us grow.





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1432 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-662-4466 / fca2.org