



KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"



“Home is where one starts from.
As we grow older
the world becomes stranger,
the pattern more complicated
Of dead and living.
Not the intense moment
Isolated, with no before and after,
But a lifetime burning in every
moment
And not the lifetime of one man
only
But of old stones that cannot be
deciphered....
Love is most nearly itself
When here and now cease to
matter....
We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union,
a deeper communion
Through the dark cold
and the empty desolation,
The wave cry, the wind cry,
the vast waters
Of the petrel and the porpoise.
In my end is my beginning.”

~ T.S. Eliot

APRIL 4, 2021

EASTER SUNDAY

THE GATHERING

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—with whatever joys, questions,
or tears you bring today—as we worship God, who welcomes us all!
And now you are invited to listen for God's Spirit speaking to you through the music of the Prelude,
as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.
Let us worship God.

PRELUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

arr. Larry Sue

* DOXOLOGY (TUNE #607)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* OPENING RESPONSES

This is the day that God has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
On this day of salvation, God raised Jesus from the grave and triumphed over sin
and fear and death!
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

#232

Please refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please hum while meditating on the words.

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

A LITANY FOR EASTER

Glory to you, O God, in the highest, for the fulfillment of saving grace!

We praise you, O God, for your power of love that brings new life!

From parading with palms, through profound loss at the cross,
now we come to peer into the empty tomb and seek risen life in Christ.

Startle us again, God, with Jesus' presence among us and your purpose for us.

We know fear and sorrow, brokenness and death, conflict and injustice, O God.

Yet we look for signs of resurrection; we long for your holy presence to empower us.

Scatter all darkness from our hearts! Inspire us to proclaim good news of hope!

Bring us, with all people and creation, from shadows of loss into the light of gladness!

* PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As the risen Christ appeared among the disciples with a blessing of peace,
we share a holy greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

(Please stand and take a moment to share Christ's peace with others.)

GLORIA

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your Spirit raised Jesus, inspired scripture, and enlivens us with hope.

**Open our hearts and minds to know Christ among us. Kindle within us love for you
and the joy of resurrection, that we may go on our way with praise and new purpose.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

Mark 16:1-8

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” from *Messiah*

George Frederic Handel

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that He shall stand
at the latter day upon the earth.
And though worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Our Beginning”

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth ... He has been raised”
(Mark 16:6)

HYMN

“The Strife is O’er” (verses 1, 2, 3)

Please, refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please, hum while meditating on the words.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

the victory of life is won;

the song of triumph has begun.

Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;

Christ rises glorious from the dead.

All glory to our risen Head!

Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,

but Christ their legions hath dispersed:

Let shouts of holy joy outburst.

Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE THANKSGIVING

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH

We give thanks to God and live faith, offering ourselves through worship, work,
service, and love in all its forms.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. ...

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.

THE SENDING

* HYMN

“The Day of Resurrection ”

Please refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please hum while meditating on the words.

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Now let the heavens be joyful;
Let earth its song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that has no end.

Let hearts be purged of evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

BENEDICTION

(Our congregational response is “Alleluia! Amen!”)

* POSTLUDE

Toccata from *Symphony V*

C.M. Widor

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Sound

Sound Team members

Music

Cindy Hunter, Director of Music
Michael Montgomery, Organist
Marysol Millar, soprano
Matthew Matuszek, Trumpet

Handbell Ensemble

Robert Brush, Laura Ford,
Brian Nederveld, Vic Onweller,
Roland Prevost, and Deb Taylor

WORSHIP IN WEEKS AHEAD

Staff and Session members are working diligently to provide safe and meaningful opportunities to gather for worship in our Sanctuary. In this transition period through months ahead, as we (hopefully) move toward a return to “normal” life, we affirm that each person will make decisions according to level of comfort. We strive for safety and inclusive accessibility for as many people as possible. Plans outlined below will be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary. Please follow protocol for masking, distancing, and sanitizing, as well as any other guidance offered upon arrival. While we will share liturgy, we will *continue to refrain from congregational singing* until further notice.

Wednesday noon prayer services will continue for the foreseeable future. At this point, there is no need to sign up ahead. Please sign in when you arrive through the West Transept or Gathering Place doors.

Beginning on Sunday, April 11, and continuing throughout April, duplicate services of worship will be offered at 8:30 and 10:00 am. Please sign up ahead of time, using a link to Eventbrite found on our website homepage. There will be a limit of 130 registrants for each service. We plan these services to last 45 minutes, to allow for significant air circulation in between. Worship at 10:00 will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube, accessed through a link to our YouTube channel sent out by email or on the sermons section on the website.

We are grateful for earnest consideration and careful, creative planning by many individuals to make these opportunities possible. We intend to review data, government guidelines, and practical experience in mid-late April for subsequent weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastors Chrissy or Seth.

Grace and Peace, *Seth*

OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Celebrate the Vision continues to provide food and friendship on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 from our South Street door on April 7, we will begin grilling and inviting the neighborhood to a Picnic in the Park. We will provide the food, and Bronson Park will be the place to have our picnic. Thank you to David and Sandy Rozelle for providing desserts this past week.
- Kalamazoo Deacons Conference provides prayer, bus tokens, and other social services. They are also a source for clothing and furniture. Donations are currently accepted on M/W/F from 9:00 – 4:30.
- Drop-In Day Care Center (at First Congregational Church) provides daycare on an as-needed basis for parents who have doctor’s appointment, job interviews, etc. Volunteers are needed to provide childcare (2 hours minimum) and disinfect toys (at 10:00 a.m.). Please call Kathy, the director of KDCCC, at 382-3640. For more information go to kdccc.org
- Save the Date. We are scheduled to volunteer for a neighborhood enhancement project on May 15 and 16. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Please contact Pat Stromsta, Director of Outreach, if you would like more information or have any questions. pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUILDING HOURS UPDATE

The FPC building is now open by appointment from 9-1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. While the Headstart preschool program is still using our building, email and voicemail are the best ways to reach staff members.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle is a group of women who meet once a month to support one another in our Christian faith. We share concerns and joys, study together, and explore what it means to be a Christian woman in today's world. We have begun the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, "Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament". The lessons explore lamenting as both a communal and individual path to trusting in the God of hope. Wearing masks and following social distancing recommendations, we will meet on Wednesday, April 14, in the Gathering Place at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited and will be warmly welcomed. For more information contact Elaine Johns at emjohns513@aol.com or 269-323-7395.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will continue our study of the PCUSA curriculum, *Testimony: God of Action*, on April 8 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet in Room 314, which will allow us to be socially distant. Please email Pat Stromsta if you have any questions or concerns. pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org

SOUND/VIDEO TEAM

MEMBERS WANTED:

The Sound/Video Team is looking for a few good persons to join the team. The Sound/Video team provides an essential part of First Presbyterian Church services with sound recordings and now, livestreaming of church services on YouTube. We are looking for one or two volunteers who are interested in helping run this important function. This would involve a commitment of once every Four to five weeks on Sundays and, periodically, some memorial services and weddings. Volunteers should be familiar with computers and comfortable with or willing to learn about various sound and video technical components. If you are interested, please contact Bob Murray at rwjmurray@charter.net or 269-598-8028.

WALK TO JERUSALEM:

We walked 750 miles this week! Some of these miles were accomplished with yard work, which some were able to do with the springlike weather we had. Biking, walking, yoga, and golf were some of the other activities that logged up miles. This takes us past Istanbul and most of the way to Aleppo, Syria. We have walked 2,695 miles altogether. We are closing in on Jerusalem!

KNOW ISRAEL/PALESTINE

WORKING GROUP AND REFUGEE OUTREACH COLLECTIVE EVENT

Join KNOW on Zoom, Saturday noon April 10, as we hear from experts on public health, cultural heritage and community psychology to learn about daily life in Palestine. Panelists will discuss community organizing, archival cultural history, and how COVID has impacted life in Palestine. To attend the event, register through the following form for the Zoom information

<https://forms.gle/gzqFcuUBJmKcwACY6> .

CROP HUNGER WALK CONTINUES IN 2021

Lace up those walking shoes!! The Crop Hunger Walk will take place this year by individual Church congregations. The Hunger Walk is a fundraising event to try to end hunger and provide disaster assistance locally & globally. This past year, funds were used to support families in the Midland area that were affected by the floods, to assist with victims of hurricanes in Texas and Florida, as well as many lifesaving projects to provide sanitation and safe water in various countries around the world. Portions of proceeds of what is raised in Kalamazoo go to the YWCA, Loaves & Fishes, and Open Doors,

On Easter Sunday, a representative from our church will be in the Gathering Place to provide information and collect funds from those people that want to donate. If you want to form a Team you can pick up donation envelopes or anyone can donate online. Form a Team online and you will receive an additional \$50 donation to your Teams collection efforts. Groups of three (3) or more youth that raise \$250 will receive an additional donation of \$125 donation. Please check the website at: crophungerwalk.org/kalamazoomi

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO 321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

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The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x203
Dr. Patricia Stromsta, Director of Outreach, x204
Ann Ross, Health Ministry Coordinator, x211
Cindy Hunter, Director of Music
Michael Montgomery, Organist
Ann Johnson, Office Administrator, x205
Anna Barnhart, Communications Coordinator, x209
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213
Custodian
South Lobby Receptionist, x221
The Reverend Dr. Liz Candido, Parish Associate
The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, Parish Associate and United Campus Ministry Pastor

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UPCOMING WORSHIP— 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

April 11
Second Sunday of Easter
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31

April 18
Third Sunday of Easter
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 24:36-48; 1 John 3:11-17

Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world. Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice—all to the glory of God.