

April 21 , 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter
11:00am — Sanctuary



“In Our Hands”, Lauren Wright Pittman
Hand-carved block printed with oil-based paint on paper



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Thank you for joining us today! We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. Please join us after worship for coffee, cookies, and punch in our fellowship hall, called McKay Hall. Just follow the crowd, and you cannot miss it! Livestreaming is available to watch via the website or YouTube, but we know this is no substitute for the community built through in-person connections. We're glad you're here!

-Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)
Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him), and Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her)

Please silence and put away your cellphone as you enter this worship space.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Toccata from Symphony No. 1, Op. 36
Valentina Qishan Huang, Organist

Rachel Laurin

Tolling of the Hour

Call to Worship

Church, where do you see God?

**We see God in the wide reach of sky,
in the towering height of mountains,
in the depths of the sea,
and in the vividness of flowers.**

Church, where else do you see God?

**We see God in early morning sunrises,
in the quiet after a snow,
in the reaching of rivers and tributaries,
and in the stars that light the night.**

And in your seeing, what do you know?

**We know that God is here,
and we know that God is good.**

Let us worship the God of creation!

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*read responsively*)

**Lord of the Way, you said that where you are, your servants will be. We confess,
Creator God, we have lost our way.**

In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation.

However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency, we have done the opposite.

The oceans are heavy with plastic.

The ice caps are melting by the hour.

Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end.

Corporations fill the atmosphere with pollution.

Policies and practices are slow to change.

Forgive us, O God.

Bring us back to the garden.

Fill our hearts with compassion for your world.

Show us where we can make a difference,

and help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse of the natural world.

With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray:

Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

Just as flowers that bloom after the fire, there is nothing that God cannot redeem.

We are known. We are loved. We are made new.

So may we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty

with the work of justice,

with the work of compassion,

with the work of mercy.

Thanks be to God for this new day!

Alleluia! Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

***Responsive Hymn No. 238** Thine Is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus



Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, conquering Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry
thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,
kept the fold-ed grave-clothes where thy bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry,
ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

HEARING THE WORD

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 148:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem Brother James' Air

Gordon Jacob

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green, he leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again and me to walk doth make within the Paths of Blessedness, even for his own Name's sake. Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale, yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me, and thy Rod and Staff me comfort still. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head with oil thou dost anoint, and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me; and in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a creating God who delights in the Earth and calls it good.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who moves through creation like a mighty rushing wind.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth who calmed the seas and told stories of mustard seeds, birds, and valleys.

We believe that humanity is undeniably intertwined with creation, and that creation is undeniably intertwined with God.

Therefore, we believe our faith calls us to care for creation: to plant flowers, to speak tenderly to animals, to thank the Earth for her bounty, to clean the streams, to protect the forests, and to live like we are standing on holy ground, because we are. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn No. 18** Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator NYANYIKANLAH NYANYIAN BARU

Announcements

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory With Prayer and Supplication

Amy Beach

With prayer and supplication, let your requests be known unto God. And the peace, of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Responsive Hymn No. 609** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Cre -
a - tor, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***Hymn No. 15** All Creatures of Our God and King
Stanzas 1-4 only

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Final* from Symphonie IV in G Minor, Op. 32
Trevor Good, Organist

Louis Vierne

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of June Knight Shassere
by William Shassere

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Anne Epling

Liturgist: William Shassere

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Carolyn Krebs, Marj Sapp

Ushers: Ron Gumbert, Tom Mettler, Judy Mettler, David Beer

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Guest Organist: Valentina Qishan Huang, Trevor Good

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

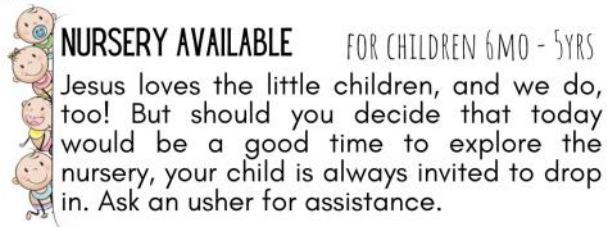
Looking for the announcements? Pick-up a copy of the Friday E-news before or after worship. You'll find copies on the table in the narthex.

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MINISTRIES FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES



Join us for Sunday School with Miss Rachel and Friends! We'll all start in worship together, and then head to our SS room as a group. We hope you'll join us for a lesson, craft, and, of course...Bible Bucks! YAY! Grown-ups, please pick your children up after worship.



Jesus loves the little children, and we do, too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child is always invited to drop in. Ask an usher for assistance.



Please return after church,
so it's there next week!

Worship isn't always easy for little hands and minds to focus, so you are invited to "check out" a fidget toy-filled Busy Bag or a book from our Littles' Library, located in the narthex!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 21, 2024

- 9:15am Small Group Bible Study, MF
- 10:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal , MR
- 10:00am Wired Word, PR
- 11:00am English Worship, SC
- 11:00am KLM Worship, CH
- 11:00am Sunday School, 210
- 12:00pm English Fellowship, MH
- 12:15pm KLM Fellowship, FH
- 12:30pm Green Team Meeting, SR
- 1:00pm "Ruby Bridges" Performance, TH
- 2:30pm Wild Church Animal Blessing, CY

Monday, April 22, 2024

- 1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH
- 3:00pm Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship, 302

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

- 2:00pm Worship Committee Meeting, SR

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

- 10:00am Table Talk, ZM
- 1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH
- 7:00pm Tough Talk, ZM

Thursday, April 25, 2024

- 5:30pm Handbell Researsal, 201
- 6:30pm Choir Social Gathering, PR
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR

Friday, April 26, 2024

- 10:00pm Men's Bible Study, ZM
- 1:00pm Women's Bible Study, ZM

Sunday, April 28, 2024

- 10:00am Chancel Choir, MR
- 10:00am Wired Word, PR
- 11:00am English Worship, SC
- 11:00am KLM Worship , CH
- 11:00am Sunday School, 210
- 12:00pm English Fellowship & Jubilee, MH
- 12:00pm KLM Fellowship, FH
- 1:00pm KLM Steering Committee, YR

Campus Room Abbreviations

CH	Chapel	MF	McKay Foyer	SB	Sanctuary Balcony
CL	Chapel Lounge	MH	McKay Hall	SC	Sanctuary
CN	Chapel Narthex	MR	Music Room	SDR	Small Dining Room
CY	Courtyard	NP	North Parking Lot	SM/O	Stephen Ministry Office
FH	Fellowship Hall	NX	Narthex	SR	Session Room
FO	Finance Office	NR	Nursery	TH	Theater
GL	Gallery	OS	Offsite	YL	Youth Lounge
KT	Main Kitchen	PR	Parlor	ZM	Zoom