

**November 17, 2024**  
**Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



“Germination” original artwork by Ricardo Levins Morales, 2017



**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*), Rev. Ann Pitman (*she/her*)

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**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** Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness, BWV 654

J. S. Bach

### Tolling of the Hour

#### Call to Worship

As we gather together, we remember that we are not alone in our faith:

**God is our Companion.**

Though the Way is not easy, and we may suffer in righteousness,

**God is our Comfort.**

When anger fills our hearts, and grief crushes our spirits,

**God is our Counselor.**

And through it all, we are together:

**For we are all children of God, our Companion, our Comfort, and our Counselor.**

Let us worship God!

**\*Hymn No. 684** Faith Begins by Letting Go

LUX PRIMA

### **\*Call to Confession**

We are called to lift up our souls to God. Often, we would prefer only to lift up the parts of our soul that we are proud of. But it is equally important that we lift up to God our sins as well. Let us do so together with honesty and courage. Let us pray:

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Creating and transforming God, you call us to spread the joy of your kingdom and live as agents of your renewal in the world. We confess that we are content to locate your kingdom in some other place, some other time, some other reality. We have been unwilling to welcome your ever-present Spirit, to strive for your justice in this world, or to recognize the risen Christ in the face of others.**

**Forgive us. Open our hearts, our minds, and our lives to see the truth right in front of us. Free us from our foolishness, and teach us to live by your wisdom, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that the days are surely coming when God will fulfill the promise God made to us. A righteous branch is springing up!

**God shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. The Lord is our righteousness!**

Friends, I proclaim to you that our sins are forgiven!

**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. 37** Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

Let all things now liv - ing a song of \_ thanks - giv - ing to God our Cre - a - tor tri -  
um - phant - ly raise; who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed \_ and stayed us, by guid - ing us  
on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us, a  
pil - lar of \_ fire shin - ing forth in the night: till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness  
ban - ished, as for - ward we \_ trav - el from light in - to light.

## HEARING THE WORD

### **Time with Children**

*Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children.*

### **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Anthem** Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

*Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King; Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King. No more dying there, we are going to see the King; Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Soon and very soon.*

### **New Testament Reading**

Mark 13:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that God has come to us;  
that God brought us into being,  
that this God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment  
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us;  
that God is not happy to leave us alone,  
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,  
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us;  
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,  
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,  
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect “Alleluia!”**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Hymn No. 357** The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

**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** Procession for Thanksgiving

Lorraine Hale

**\*Responsive Hymn No. 643** Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT



Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Faithful God, let these gifts we present to you today become seeds of your new creation: planted in the needs of the world you love; watered by tears and hope; fed and strengthened by the glow of Christ's resurrection; gathered home with joy and singing. Amen.

## SENDING

**\*Hymn No. 366** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

## \*Benediction

**\*Postlude** Postlude in D Major

J. K. F. Fischer

## Chancel Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given in celebration of November birthdays by William Shassere

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Jake Huffman, Carolyn Krebs

**Ushers:** Eric Evans, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Anita Wolfe

**Director of Music Ministries & Organist:** Brent Neuenschwander

**Assistant Organist:** Kathryn Miller

**Chancel Choir**

**Handbell Choir**

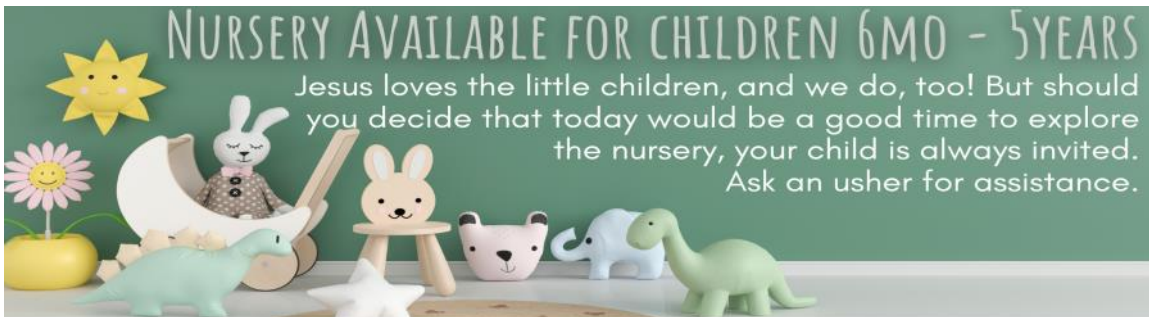
**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Jeff Slater

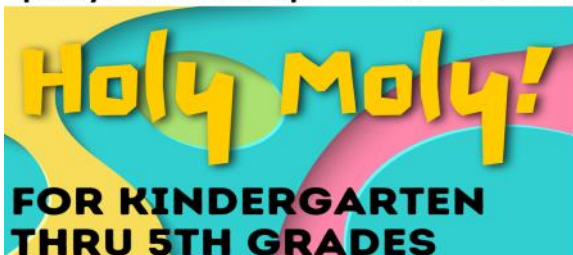
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**Hearing Loop:** To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T,” T-Coil or telephone position.

*Large Print Hymns are available from the Ushers*



**Sunday School for Children and Youth meets during church. We'll all start in worship together, and then head to our SS rooms as a group. Grown-ups, please pick your children up in the education wing after worship.**



## **This Week at First Pres!**

### **Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 6:30PM – Transgender Day of Remembrance Service**

Each year on November 20, we come together to honor the memory of transgender individuals who lost their lives to acts of anti-transgender violence. In honor of those in our community and around the world who have suffered violence or loss, we invite you to a special evening of spoken word and a candlelight vigil in McKay Foyer. Join us as we remember, support, and celebrate our transgender siblings in the LGBTQIA+ community. Everyone is welcome.

**Join us for a bountiful Thanksgiving meal** after worship on Sunday, November 24. This annual tradition, hosted by our Korean Language Ministry, is a time to come together in the spirit of Thanksgiving as we approach the season of gratitude and reflection. The meal is catered, but you are asked to bring a dessert.

**You're invited to the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving worship service** at Congregation Achduth Vesholom on Tuesday, November 26, 7:00pm. Come celebrate a Harvest of Compassion with your friends of many faiths. First Presbyterian Church is honored to be a sponsor of this event

Join us in the Gallery for the congregational opening reception for **Art of Hope**, on Sunday following worship! Art of Hope is an art exhibit highlighting local artists and shares inspiring stories about recovery, healing, and hope. Enjoy light refreshments while viewing the art and meet the artists behind the work.

**The Missions Committee is seeking volunteers** to assist with the meal at St. Joseph Women's Shelter on Monday, November 25. This being the week of Thanksgiving, it can be hard to find people able to make a meal. If you can, Missions would greatly appreciate your assistance.

They are also looking for people to lead the set-up of organizing the backpack food collection on Sunday mornings and/or delivery of the food to Washington Elementary on Thursdays. You can sign-up for any day that suits your schedule. Training is provided. Scan the QR code to sign-up.  
Thank you!

