

# Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, March 17, 2024, 10:00am, Fifth Sunday in Lent

## Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

## Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

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

**GATHERING MUSIC** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"  
FPC Ringers

Raney

*The music this morning is offered as an act of worship,  
therefore, please refrain from applause.*

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Arlene Pollock

One: Almighty God, our redeemer, your steadfast love helps us to be messengers of forgiveness and hope.

**Many: Almighty God, our sustainer, by your Holy Spirit empower us to be your witnesses and proclaim the good news of your love.**

One: Help us to hear your voice and follow your holy way.

**All: Let us worship God!**

†HYMN 11 "Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud"

Hymntune: ABERYSTWYTH

## TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Martha Piesko

*After Time With the Younger Church, children 3 years old—5th grade will proceed to their classrooms.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Joanne Blair

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

We are an intentionally inclusive congregation and value the richness of worshiping with all God's people. There are times in the sanctuary when shouts or other loud noises may occur. We accept these without judgment, unless they are signs of distress in need of attention.

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## †RESPONSE

“Jesus, Remember Me” (*sung twice*)

Two staves of music in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Je-sus re-mem-ber me when You come in-to Your king-dom.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days.

Many: Ever-present God, minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so we may be reformed, restored, and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 51

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God!

## ANTHEM

“Deep River”  
Chancel Choir

Rutter

## SECOND TESTAMENT READING

John 12:20-33

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God!

## SERMON

“Worthwhile”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

*“Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.” – Psalm 51:11*

## INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION OF OFFICERS

Sandra Karam, Clerk of Session

One: There are different gifts,

Many: **but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

One: There are different ways of serving God,

Many: **but it is the same Lord who is served.**

One: God works through different people in different ways,

Many: **but it is the same God who achieves God’s purpose  
through them all.**

One: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit

Many: **to use it for the common good.**

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

Many: **and individually members of him,**

One: though we have different gifts...

### Presentation of Officers

Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the Session of First Presbyterian Church now brings these persons to be ordained and installed to the office of ruling elder and deacon.

*Elders:* Polly Cueny; *Deacons:* Terry Lanzen, Ginny Mottershaw

Please follow along with the reading on page 520 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 106 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

## Constitutional Questions of Officers

### Questions of the Congregation:

Clerk: Do we, the members of the church, accept these men and women as Deacons and Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**Congregation: We do.**

Clerk: Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

**Congregation: We do.**

## Laying on of Hands and Welcome

## OFFERING INFORMATION

*Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads  
to let us know of your presence with us.*

## OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND RESOURCES

### MUSICAL OFFERING

“Adoro Te Devote”

Krug

FPC Ringers

### †THE DOXOLOGY

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

### 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.

### †HYMN 421

“Have Mercy, God, upon My Life”  
(sung to Hymntune: ST. ANNE)

### †BENEDICTION

### †PASSING OF THE PEACE

### POSTLUDE

“Chaconne in E minor”

Buxtehude

Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service.

Our liturgist this morning is Arlene Pollock. Arlene joined the church in September 2023 and is newly ordained as a Deacon for a one-year term in the Class of 2024. On a whim, she joined the Beginner Bells in September of 2022 and is now in FPC Ringers. She loves learning this new way of making music.

The family of John Perryman is celebrating his birthday today with the beautiful flowers in the chancel.

Visitors, thank you for joining us today. Please sign the Fellowship Pad or use this QR code to register your attendance:



The service of worship concludes following the postlude. Please take this time to reflect on the day’s worship.

Welcome in Christ’s name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin

## Staff

<i>Ministers</i> .....	<i>The Congregation</i>
<i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> .....	<i>Rev. Louis Nyiri, M.Div</i>
<i>Pastoral Liaison for Stephen Ministry**</i> .....	<i>Rev. Joanne Blair, M.Div</i>
<i>Parish Associates**</i> .....	<i>Rev. Julie Madden, M.Div</i>
	<i>Rev. Ted Thode, M.Div</i>
<i>Foster/Adoptive Families Partnerships**</i> .....	<i>Rev. Kate Thoresen, D.Min</i>
<i>Director of Christian Education and All Abilities Inclusion Ministries</i> .....	<i>Martha Piesko</i>
<i>Education Administrative Assistant*</i> .....	<i>Nancy Quigley</i>
<i>Educator Emeritus**</i> .....	<i>Cindy Merten, M.Ed</i>
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i> .....	<i>Andrew Herbruck, M.Mus</i>
<i>Children's Choir Director*</i> .....	<i>Jolene Plotzke</i>
<i>Music Makers Choir Director, Rejoicing Spirits Song Leader*</i> .....	<i>Samantha Samuels</i>
<i>Music Makers Interim Choir Director*</i> .....	<i>Charlotte Marjorie</i>
<i>Coordinator for Young Adults with Disabilities*</i> .....	<i>Hadley Moak</i>
<i>Director of FP Hand-In-Hand Early Learning Center</i> .....	<i>Heidi Wilkinson</i>
<i>Director of Communications</i> .....	<i>Dawn Swarthout</i>
<i>Office Administrator*</i> .....	<i>Dawn Buley</i>
<i>Financial Administrator*</i> .....	<i>Antonia Kokkinakis</i>
<i>Membership Coordinator*</i> .....	<i>Amy Zimmer</i>
<i>Building Supervisor</i> .....	<i>Quenten Matthews</i>
<i>Custodian</i> .....	<i>Tony Braxton</i>
<i>*Part-time Staff **Non Stipend Staff</i>	

### Need to Contact Us?

First Presbyterian Church  
1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI, 48009  
248.644.2040  
Email: [contact@everybodyschurch.org](mailto:contact@everybodyschurch.org)  
Website: [www.everybodyschurch.org](http://www.everybodyschurch.org)

### Many Ways to Give at FPC

To contribute online visit the giving tab (using the QR code, go to [www.everybodyschurch.org](http://www.everybodyschurch.org)) or Text to Give.



Text "GIVE" to



248-600-4919

Use our QR code to check out the website:



To sign-up for church emails contact  
Dawn Swarthout at  
[Dawn@everybodyschurch.org](mailto:Dawn@everybodyschurch.org)

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All Abilities Inclusion Ministry  
Everybody's Church Music Ministry  
Everybody's Church Youth Groups



[@fpcbirmingham](https://www.instagram.com/fpcbirmingham)



[everybodyschurch1](https://www.youtube.com/everybodyschurch1)

## 11 Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud



1 Source and Sov-ereign, Rock and Cloud, For-tress, Foun-tain, Shel - ter, Light,  
 2 Word and Wis - dom, Root and Vine, Shep-herd, Sav-ior, Ser - vant, Lamb,  
 3 Storm and Still - ness, Breath and Dove, Thun-der, Tem-pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,



Judge, De - fend-er, Mer-cy, Might, Life whose life all life en-dowed:  
 Well and Wa - ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:  
 Com - fort, Coun-selor, Pres-ence, Love, En-er - gies that nev - er tire:



May the church at prayer re - call that no sin - gle ho - ly name




but the truth be-hind them all is the God whom we pro-claim.



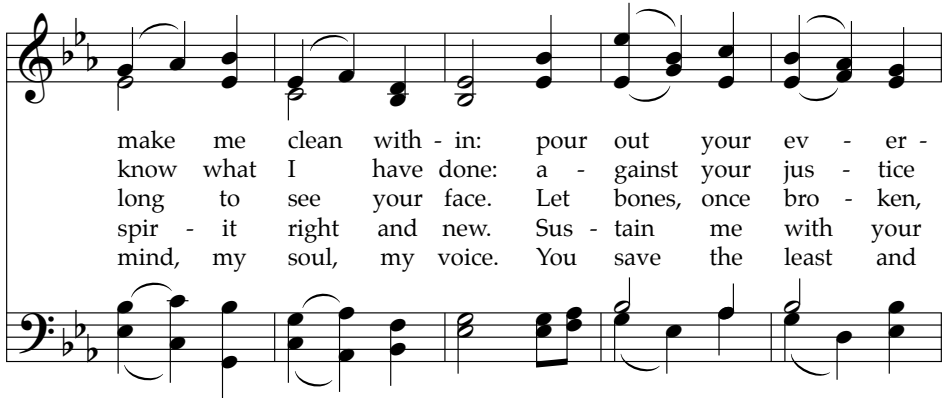
These scriptural names and images of the Triune God express a theological view reinforced by the structure: the stanzas deal, in turn, with each Person of the Trinity and the refrain affirms their unity. The swirling patterns of the Welsh tune add much energy to the text.

# Have Mercy, God, upon My Life 421

(Psalm 51)



1 Have mer - cy, God, up - on my life, and  
 2 My guilt is heav - y on my mind; I  
 3 Now teach me wis - dom in my soul; I  
 4 Cre - ate in me a faith - ful heart, a  
 5 Then I will praise you with my heart, my



make me clean with - in: pour out your ev - er -  
 know what I have done: a - gainst your jus - tice  
 long to see your face. Let bones, once bro - ken,  
 spir - it right and new. Sus - tain me with your  
 mind, my soul, my voice. You save the least and



faith - ful love and wash a - way my sin.  
 I have sinned, a - gainst you, God, a - lone.  
 sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.  
 sav - ing love and keep me close to you.  
 seek the lost; let all the world re - joice!

Psalm 51, paraphrased here, has traditionally been known as one of the seven penitential psalms, and it is used annually on Ash Wednesday. But this psalm is not just about human sinfulness; it is also about God's willingness to forgive and restore sinners. That is good news.