

First   
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

May 14, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161

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The mission of the First Presbyterian Church is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and to proclaim his salvation in worship, education, and outreach.

# Fifth Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day

*\*We invite all who are able to stand where there is an asterisk.*

## OPENING WORDS

Jesus has come from God to triumph over death.

**Jesus Christ has come as one of us so that death can be conquered.**

He has laid the foundation for a completely new life.

**In him we can become completely different women and men.**

Let us make a new beginning with him.

**Let us begin anew in Him, who was and is and is to come!**

PRELUDE "Blessed Jesus, We Are Here"

J. S. Bach

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name.

**God protects the vulnerable and shelters the weak.**

God gives a home to the homeless and leads the captives into freedom.

**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name.**

**Halleluja, Amen!**

\*HYMN ★369 "Blessing and Honor"

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, father and mother to orphans, protector to outcasts, provider for the needy, savior of all: We confess that we have neglected the work you entrusted to us. We have been half-hearted in our prayers, in our care for those who suffer, in our witness to your love for us and all people of the earth. God of mercy, restore us and make us whole again. Support us. Strengthen and ground us that we may do your will on earth, until you come again.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another with words and signs of the peace of Christ.*

\*SONG OF AFFIRMATION ★245 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” v. 1

***“Christ the Lord is risen today!” Alleluia!***

***All creation, join to say: Alleluia!***

***Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!***

***Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!***

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Acts 7:51-60

NT p. 126

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING — John 14:1-14

NT p. 108

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “I Am the Way”

HYMN ★395 “Blessed Jesus, We Are Here”

OFFERING

*Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry*

OFFERTORY “With a Voice of Singing”

Martin Shaw

*With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, "Alleluia!"*

*Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands. O sing praises to the honor of his name. Make his praise to be glorious. With a voice of singing declare ye this and let it be heard, Alleluia!*

\*DOXOLOGY ★606

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Take from our hands what is yours, O Lord, to build up your church in worship and mission and love. And return to us your peace that we may be a walking witness of you in the world. Amen.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

*From A Brief Statement of Faith, The Book of Confessions*

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN ★263 “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE ★246 “Christ Is Alive!” vs. 2

*Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.*

POSTLUDE “In Thee is Gladness”

J. S. Bach

## TODAY

**Sign up TODAY for our local mission work THIS WEEK  
and receive your T-shirt!!**

### **“Invisible City” – A Local Mission of FPC**



**Meet at 9 a.m. each day in Fellowship Hall** for devotion and prayer. You can participate half a day, one day or as many days as you like serving, working, joining in the effort.

- Wednesday, May 17*—sorting items at **ReStore**
- Thursday, May 18*—yard work, clean-up at various seniors' homes
- Friday, May 19*—light yard work, cleaning, repair jobs at **Paula's House**
- Saturday, May 20*—clean-up of our **church kitchen** and pantry

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to FPC of Monroe!** We are glad you are here today! We hope you find this a community of faith where you experience God in Jesus Christ. Childcare is always provided on Sunday mornings and the nursery is located near the parking lot entrance of the church. Hearing assistance is available.

### **Spring Cleaning**

Spring cleaning is here and the Building & Property Committee will be getting rid of items no longer used or items that have been stored at the church. If you have personal items stored at the church, please retrieve them and take them home. During the month of May the Building & Property Committee will place items to be disposed of on the stage for any member of the congregation to take at their choosing. This will include used computer equipment. At the end of May the remainder of the items will be disposed of. The Building & Property Committee thanks you for your assistance in this project.

## **Adult Education on Sundays in May, 9:30-10:20 a.m., Cairl Room**

### **World Religions and Other Faiths**

What do we really know about other religions, even about other Christian denominations? This four-week adult ed series will try to help answer some of the more common questions regarding Islam, Judaism, and various Christian denominations and sects.

### **May 14--Judaism**

Our own Christian faith has as its foundation Judaism. Our Lord was a Jew, as were the first Christians who carried the new faith abroad. This presentation will examine some of the images of the Jewish faith, such as temple worship, the prophets, the Law, and covenant and creation. Martin Luther said that we should study Judaism and the Old Testament first before we can have any reasonable grasp of who Jesus is and what he has done. So, this is a little try.

### **May 21--Christianity I**

The Western world is divided evenly into Protestants and Catholics. What are the similarities and differences between these two faith traditions. Where did they originate? And how did later Protestant traditions emerge? The world has nearly 35,000 different Protestant traditions--why and what makes them different?

### **May 28--Christianity II**

The United States was considered an experiment in how to organize around one's religious beliefs. This experiment spawned numerous Christian fringe groups, sects, and cults, especially during the nineteenth century. We will discuss Shakers, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

## THIS WEEK

MONDAY	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff
	2:30	Charlotte Handbell Choir
WEDNESDAY	9:00	Invisible City
	9:30	Chair Yoga
	6:30	Bells
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	9:00	Invisible City
	10:00	Bible Study
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	Invisible City
	9:00	TOPS
	5:00	Wedding Rehearsal
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	9:00	Invisible City
	3:00	Transitions for Women
	4:30	Hueston Wedding
	5:30	Socialites
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Class with Pastor Annemarie
	10:30	Choir
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship



MAY 14, 2017  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Jesus is our Good Shepherd.**

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Proverbs 10:27-32	The way of the Lord
Tuesday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
Wednesday	John 18:28-38	Jesus and Pilate speak of truth
Thursday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Steven
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	Growing as God's people
Saturday	Psalms 31	A prayer for protection
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

But you are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done. **1 Peter 2:9 (CEV)**

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, please help us to walk in your way, hold to your truth, and live with your power.  
Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, thank you for the blessings of this day, for food to eat with spoon, fork, and knife. May we have the faith to walk your way, full of your peace and truth and life. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

As God's chosen race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, may God bless you in the way of Jesus, the truth of Jesus, and life in his name.

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:**

*Take My Life, That I May Be*



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- When have you been chosen for special recognition?
- What difference does it make that God has chosen you?
- When Jesus says that he is the way, he emphasizes a relationship to him that leads his followers to do the works that Jesus does in the world, and “even greater things” will be done by Jesus’ disciples (John 14:6, 12). What does it mean to be Christ to the world?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read: Acts 7:55-60.*

Terullian, an early church father stated, “The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.” That is, those who have witnessed to the faith with their lives have led to the growth of the church. The martyrdom of St. Stephen is just such an example. His gruesome death by stoning led to the exodus of the church from Jerusalem to “Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). His death led to a movement out of Jerusalem that helped fulfill what the resurrected Lord said to the disciples before his ascension. Take a moment to wonder how times of suffering have produced growth and new life for you and for the body of Christ. Close by praying the Lord’s Prayer.

## SERVICE

People sometimes resist the idea that Christians are a chosen people because it suggests a level of privilege others do not get. However, in the Old and New Testament, being elected (chosen) is about the mission that is given to the elected. In 1 Peter 2:9, to be the “chosen race” means being a “holy nation,” that is, a people set apart to serve: to “tell all the wonderful things that he has done.” Offer prayers for missionaries around the globe, including mission starts in your own community. Consider how you are part of the outreach work of the church.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This Sunday is Mother’s Day. Take time to recognize mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and all women who have helped you grow and develop over the years. At a meal or other occasion with family and/or friends take turns saying, “**Lord God, I am thankful for (her name) because . . .**”

Conclude with the following prayer, “**Lord God, thank you for the gift of mothers and all women who have made a difference in our lives, including (names). For the care that they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**”

## **Sermon Notes:**

### **Staff:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **Director of Music Ministry:** Susan Barker;  
**Christian Education Director :** Diane Adams; **Financial Secretary:** Sue Bondie;  
**Administrative Assistant:** Kelly Vergowven; **Sexton:** Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Sue Bondie, Amy Morgan; **Custodian:** Lori Lewis

**Pastors Emeriti:** Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley

### **Worship Leadership Today:**

**Liturgist:** Alice Kostoff; **Ushers:** Cory & Kathy Fogle, Rusty & Cathy Shorter