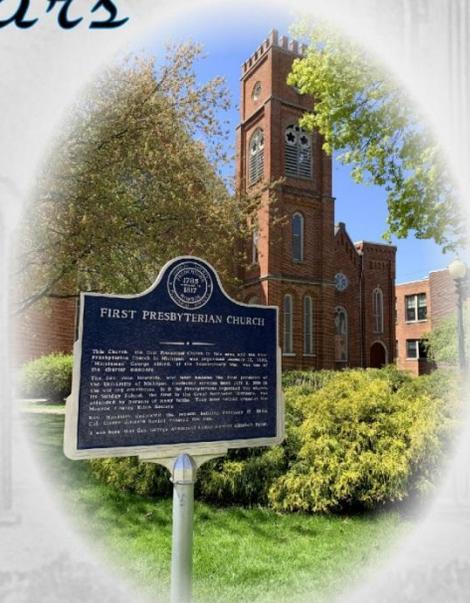




First
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating
200 Years
of Faith
&
Service



June 28, 2020

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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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

OPENING WORDS

Friends, join me as we gather.

God welcomes us into his presence.

We open our hearts and our minds to the Lord.

We notice God's presence with us now.

We lay down our sadness, our burdens, and rejoice.

We rejoice in God's love and grace for us.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome! God is here! Rejoice!

We rejoice in God's welcome and come to hear and understand God's word for us, for our church, and for the world in these times.

Notice and feel the presence of the Spirit of God in and among us.

We feel the presence of the Spirit surrounding us and calling us to open our eyes and our ears to hear anew God's message of reconciliation, justice and love.

Let us worship and celebrate our Lord.

OPENING HYMN #305 "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!" vss. 1,3,4

- 1 Come sing, O church in joy! Come join, O church, in song! For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
- 3 Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide, as we in mission magnify the Crucified! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
- 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song! For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our loving Creator God knows us and loves us as we are and continues to reach out to us as God's beloved people. Rest in God's love. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace, God of Truth, we are made humble by your bountiful love for us, so evident in the many gifts you have bestowed upon us. We realize that we often do not share your welcome, your love and justice, with all that we encounter. Sometimes we even believe that your welcome is only for others and not for us. We look for grand gestures to demonstrate our worth, forgetting it is in the small, everyday things that we share your welcoming love. We feel overwhelmed by the troubles of the world and sit back, accepting things as they are because justice seems impossible. And secretly we fear that justice is something that will cost us too much, that we will lose out so that others may have something of what we now possess, forgetting that your gift of life is for all your creation.

Forgive us, God, for the fear that often drives us to forget your love. Help us to think, speak, and act in ways, small and large, that bring justice and love to all. Bless us anew to the path demonstrated to us by Jesus, and give us courage and grace to walk in His Way. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the Good News! God hears our voices crying out and offers the peace we seek. Let us proclaim the good news! In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven. Celebrate and know that God's heart, the Spirit, dwells in each of us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SONG OF AFFIRMATION #581 "Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Creator God, open our hearts and minds to hear your word for our lives. May it light anew the spark of the Holy Spirit within us. **Amen.**

FIRST READING — Genesis 22:1-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 10:40-42

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “The fear that drives us, the faith that sustains us, Part 2”

Debra Davies

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN #257

“This Is the Threefold Truth”

vss. 1,2,5

- 1 This is the three-fold truth on which our faith depends, and with this joyful cry worship begins and ends: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!
- 2 Made sacred by long use, new-minted for our time, our liturgies sum up the hope we have in him: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!
- 5 This is the three-fold truth which, if we hold it fast, changes the world and us and brings us home at last: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

CALL TO OFFERING

Please reflect on the blessings God has given you and how you might reach out.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we experience your bountiful love in so many ways. We pledge these tokens of our love and gratitude to your service and ask that they be multiplied in your ministry throughout the world to bring justice and peace. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Pray for those who are ill and all health care workers and those in essential jobs serving us. Pray for our congregation now separated. Pray for our country's leaders as they make tough decisions. Pray for our world.*)

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.

HYMN #821

"My Life Flows On"

vss. 1,2,4

1 My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation. I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

CHARGE AND BLESSING

God welcomes us with love and joy. Let us share God's joyous love with all the world. Let us stand with all God's children for justice and reconciliation. May the blessing of God, the Creator; the grace of Jesus, the Redeemer; and the comfort and love of the Spirit, the Sustainer, go with all of us as we leave this place. **Amen.**

Ushers: Jim & Sue Heisler; Randy Stiffler

About Our Guest Speaker

Debra Davies, M.Div., is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary (1998). She is a Ruling Elder of 40 years, having served four different congregations in that role as well as Clerk of Session in two congregations. She has long been involved in ecumenical activities, visited churches on three continents, and values the diversity of people of faith across Christian and non-Christian denominations and traditions. Committed to life-long learning, she teaches adult education classes focused on exploring questions of life and faith.