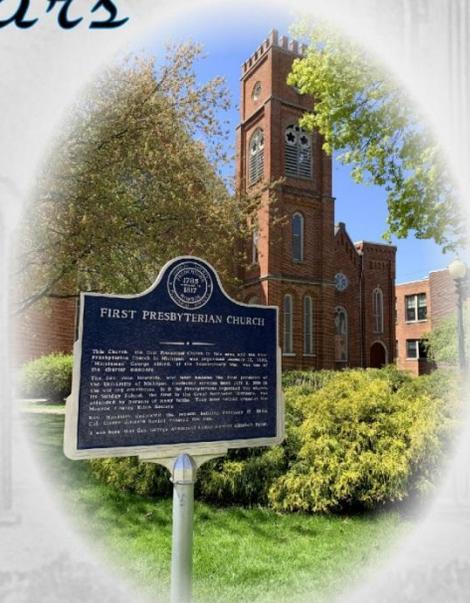




First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating  
200 Years  
of Faith  
&  
Service



**August 16, 2020**

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161  
734.242.1545; [info@monroefirst.org](mailto:info@monroefirst.org)  
[www.monroefirst.org](http://www.monroefirst.org)

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

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

## OPENING WORDS

Friends, we come together from many places, united in our desire to worship God.

**We feel the welcoming embrace of God as we enter into worship.**

Let us lay down all that distracts us, all our present challenges.

**We offer our thanksgiving, grateful to be together to worship God in response to God's love and grace for us.**

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

God has created each of us in God's image.

**We are reflections of God who knows everything about us.**

We are called, with all our challenges and imperfections, into relationship with God, as God's beloved people.

**We offer ourselves as servants into relationship with God and God's people.**

Let us worship and celebrate our Lord.

**Hallelujah!**

## OPENING HYMN #267 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" vss. 1-3

- 1 Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen! Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice; praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!
- 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen! Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen! He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend; his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!
- 3 Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen! Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen! On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore, singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

## 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. As we rest in God's love, let us confess our sins.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 67:1-2)

**We confess, O God, that we fail to notice your presence so often in our lives. You heap blessings upon us and we think we have earned them, forgetting your grace and love for us. Forgive us our self-centeredness. Draw our attention back to you. As the people spoke so long ago, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that God's way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you."**

## SILENT CONFESSION

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Psalm 67:6-7)

“The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere our Lord.”

Friends, believe the Good News. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven.

## 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 Spirit of Wisdom within us. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING — Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING — Matthew 15:1-9, 21-28

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON:

“Crumbs”

Debra Davies

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—From “The Belhar Confession”

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family, and that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:**

**in that we love one another;**

**that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;**

**that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;**

**that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;**

**together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;**

**that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.**

HYMN #520

“Taste and See”

vss. 1-3

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips; my soul shall glory in the Lord, for God has been so good to me.

Refrain

2 Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name. I called the Lord, who answered me; from all my troubles, I was set free.

Refrain

3 Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust.

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 #306

### “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

vss. 1,4-5

- 1      Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
- 4      When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
- 5      From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Today is a new day, full of blessings and hope. Seize the day with grateful rejoicing and share God's love with all you encounter. Stand with all God's children for justice, reconciliation and peace. 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 service. **Amen.**

## **Ushers: Helyn Schroeder and Jim Crammond**

### ***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.*