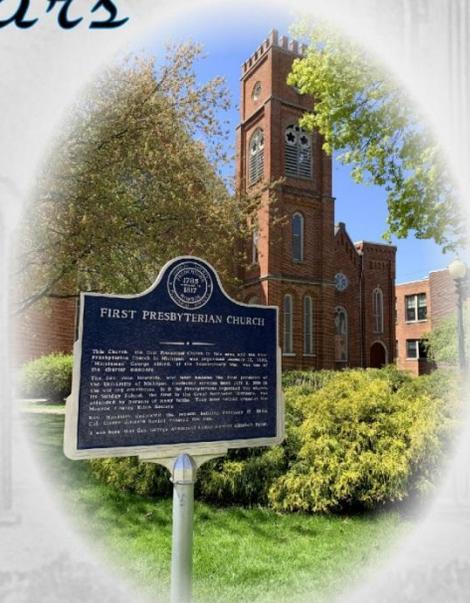




First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating  
200 Years  
of Faith  
&  
Service



**August 23, 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.

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

## OPENING WORDS

Welcome to this house of worship!

**Built on two hundred years of faithful people coming together.**

We set aside our individual lives to come together as a community.

**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 #35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" vss. 1-3

- 1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?
- 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

## 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

**Loving and gracious God, we confess that our faith is often shaky, not on as solid of ground as we might hope. We desire to respond to your love and grace with unending devotion and faithful actions. Yet so often our day-to-day lives cloud our focus and we look for easy answers to difficult and complex questions. We seek to understand your created world and be your servant people. And we know that sometimes our own desires, preferences, and understandings make it difficult to work together to be your witness in the world.**

**Forgive us for the times we make our own lives more important than the witness of your son, Jesus, the Christ, our Savior. Renew in us a call to be your beloved people, sharing your message of justice, reconciliation, and peace.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God knows and understands our strengths and weaknesses, both as individuals and as a community of faith. And yet God loves us still. 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 51:1-6

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING — Matthew 16:13-20

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON:

“Witness and Presence”

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 #321

“The Church’s One Foundation”

vss. 1, 4-5

- 1 The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore: till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

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 #372

### “O for a World”

vss. 1,4-5

- 1 O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
- 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish one are wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
- 5 O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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:** Sue and Jim Heisler

### ***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.*