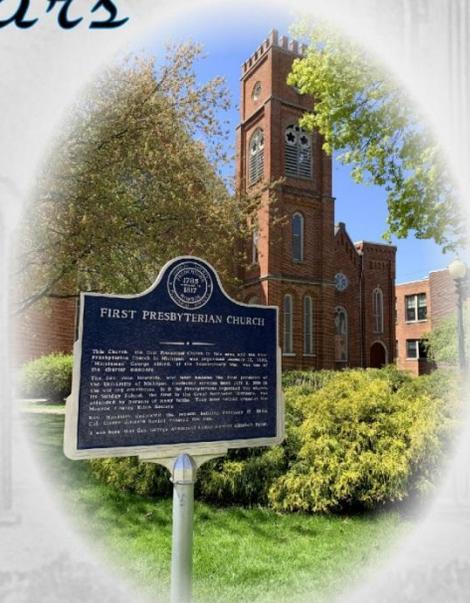




First
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating
200 Years
of Faith
&
Service



October 25, 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.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

OPENING WORDS (Psalm 25:1, 4-5)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, God is our light and truth.

We come together with joy to worship God, seeking God's vision for our lives.

With reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and sing your praise,

for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

OPENING HYMN #263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" vss. 1-3

- 1 All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all! Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
- 2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all! Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
- 3 Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all! To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are God's beloved people. As we rest in God's love, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from The Prayer of St. Francis)

Gracious God, you call us to be instruments of your peace, and we struggle with this call. So often we struggle to bring love in the midst of hate, pardon in the midst of harm, reconciliation in the midst of conflict, truth in the midst of lies, faith in the midst of doubt, hope in the midst of despair, light in the midst of darkness, and joy in the midst of sadness.

Forgive us, Lord, and help us to seek as much to be consoled as to console, to understand as much as to be understood, loved as to love. For it is in giving that one receives, in self-forgetting that one finds, in pardoning that one is pardoned, and in dying that one is raised to eternal life. Amen.

Hear now the silent confessions on our hearts.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Jesus the Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

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, encouraging us to conform our lives to the life of Jesus. **Amen.**

FIRST READING — Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-10, 13-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 22:34-46

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

“Neighbors”

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 #727 "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" vss. 1-6

- 1 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ light for you in the nighttime of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

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 #462

“I Love to Tell the Story”

vss. 1-3

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.
- 2 I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Friends,

Blessed are the ones who are nourished by the gifts of heaven; who dwell in the lands of truth, reach for justice, and seek the joy of collective liberation from generations of violence and domination, for these are like trees planted in streams of water. With our hearts set upon the teachings of God, let us go and seek this transformation of grace.

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May the grace of our Lord, Jesus the Christ,

The love of God,

And the love and comfort of the Holy Spirit go with each of us as we leave this service. **AMEN**

Ushers: Sue and Jim Heisler

About our Guest Speaker this Sunday!

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.