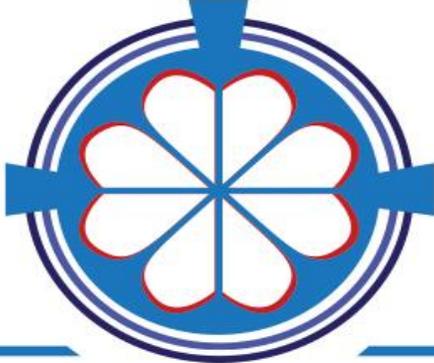


First 

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Presbyterian

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Church of Monroe

**November 15, 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.

# Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS

Psalm 118:24

One: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*adaptation Psalm 123, CEB*

Mary DeSloover

One: Heaven dwelling God, we look to you.

**All: Heaven-dwelling God our eyes are fixed on you.**

One: We are watching and waiting. We are holding our breath, awaiting  
Your word of mercy.

**All: Heaven-dwelling God our eyes are fixed on you.**

One: Let us pray: Heaven-dwelling God, when we are kicked around by the world and feel down, remind us to keep our eyes fixed on you, the Holy One of hope and love. Amen.

HYMN #366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

vss. 1-4

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never-more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Our sin is ever before our God. We cannot hide from the Holy One. So, come now, let us seek forgiveness. May our heaven dwelling God give us grace and wisdom to reflect God's love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Slow to anger God, you are merciful and abound in steadfast love.**

**Yet we test the limits of your grace--turning away from you and toward that which is evil in your sight. We know what is right but do what is wrong despite the clarity of your commandments. We are to love others and trust you.**

**Instead we resort to the worst rhetoric of our culture rather than the compassion of our Lord. Transform us with your grace and make us more like you. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Our God is sheer mercy and grace. Not easily angered, our God is rich in love. God doesn't hold grudges forever nor does God treat us as our sins deserve. As far as sunrise is from sunset, God separates us from our sins. So, friends believe the good news, through Christ we are forgiven. Be at peace.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

SONG OF AFFIRMATION #2167 STF

“More Like You”

*More like you, Jesus more like you. Fill my heart with your desire to make me more like you. More like you, Jesus more like you. Touch my lips with holy fire and make me more like you. Lord you are my mercy. Lord, you are my grace. All my deepest sins have forever been erased. Draw me in your presence. Lead me in your ways. I long to bring you glory in righteousness and praise.*

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mary DeSloover

Send your Spirit to remind us of all Jesus taught. Send your Spirit to open our ears to hear your wise word. Send your Spirit to fix our gaze upon you and to quiet in us any voice but yours. Amen.

FIRST READING

Judges 4:1-7

Mary DeSloover

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Mary DeSloover

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH<sup>1</sup>

Mary DeSloover

**Unison: 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. We trust in the God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit give us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. Our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever.**

HYMN #470

“There Is a Longing in Our Hearts”

vss. 1-4

- 1 For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer. In sorrow, in grief: be hear; hear our prayer, O God.  
Refrain  
There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us. There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.
- 2 For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer. In weakness, in fear: be near; hear our prayer, O God.  
Refrain
- 3 For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer. In sickness, in death: be near; hear our prayer, O God.  
Refrain
- 4 Lord save us, take pity, Light in our darkness. We call you; we wait: be near; hear our prayer, O God.  
Refrain

CALL TO OFFERING

Mary DeSloover

One: All that we have comes from God, let us worship God by returning to God a portion of what has been entrusted to us.

## DOXOLOGY

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mary DeSloover

Accept our offerings as an expression of our love and trust in you. Use our offerings as a means to love all that you have created. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

*(Hold in your heart those who are sick; those who are on ventilators; those who are suffering; those who are dying. Pray for all health care workers and essential workers, who risk their lives in service of God and neighbor. Pray for scientists and researchers in their efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Pray for our FPC Monroe beloved community—those who enter through our virtual front door and those who enter through our wooden front door. Pray for our nation...for local, state, and national leaders and for world leaders that they will govern justly and show empathy, compassion, and mercy. Pray for our Earth and all creation.)*

### LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**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 #682

“It is Good to Sing Your Praises”

vss. 1-3

- 1 It is good to sing your praises and to thank you, O Most High, showing forth your lovingkindness when the morning lights the sky. It is good when night is falling of your faithfulness to tell, while with sweet, melodious praises songs of adoration swell.
- 2 You have filled my heart with gladness through the works your hands have wrought; you have made my life victorious; great your works and deep your thought. You, O Lord, on high exalted, reign forevermore in might; all your enemies shall perish, sin be banished from your sight.
- 3 But the good shall live before you, planted in your dwelling place, fruited trees and ever verdant, nourished by your boundless grace. In his goodness to the righteous God his righteousness displays; God, my rock, my strength and refuge, just and true are all your ways.

### CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### POSTLUDE

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<sup>1</sup> A Brief Statement of Faith and Shorter Catechism

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## *Poinsettia Order Form*



Christmas is just around *the* corner! Please help to decorate our Sanctuary with a “wave” of red throughout this Advent season!

**The following will be available:**

**A 6” potted poinsettia with a foil wrap and a bow for \$13.00. Please submit payment with your order.**

Orders must be received by **Monday, November 30**. Fill out the order form in the bulletin or call Sara in the office at 734-242-1545 to order. Please submit checks together with your order form in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church. The flowers are being furnished by Deb’s Flowers & Gifts. Please feel free to take your plant home **after** the Christmas Eve Service.

**My poinsettia is**

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_