

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 20, 2022*



*"I am a soldier of Christ; I cannot fight."
~Martin of Tours*

GATHERING

WELCOME

Sue Downing

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

Sue Downing

We come together,
journeying from different places in life,
desiring to share in worship and community
the love we experience as we follow Jesus, the Christ.
So we come, setting aside our burdens from this journey,
humbled and trusting in you, O God,
holding us close,
and feeling your presence in and around us.

***HYMN**

“Christ Is Alive!”

GTG 246

CALL TO CONFESSION

Debra Davies

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Debra Davies

O God, giver of all good things,
we hang our heads as we acknowledge our unfaithfulness.
We desire to do your will in the world,
and yet so often do our own instead.
We demand compliance in others,
wanting everyone to follow our rules and be like us.
We create enemies, pushing people away because of their differences,
failing to see your Spirit reflected in their eyes, and our own.
Forgive us, Lord, for all the ways we separate ourselves from others.
Help us to notice the gifts you have given to all people,
encourage us as we nurture one another in your name,
and inspire us to walk this journey as faithful followers of Jesus, the Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SUNG RESPONSE

“Change My Heart, O God”

GTG 695

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sue Downing

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

A STORY FOR ALL AGES

(a time for children young in years or young at heart)

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sue Downing

God of grace and truth,
open our hearts and minds,
help us to see and to hear
that which you desire for us to understand
as we reflect upon your Word.

SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Genesis 43:3-11

Sue Downing

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Luke 6:27-38

Debra Davies

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

INSTRUMENTAL MUSICAL SELECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostles' Creed

Debra Davies

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

GTG 753

OFFERING

Sue Downing

We are beloved of God and live in God's grace. Let us offer back to God a portion of the bounty God has provided.

***DOXOLOGY**

GTG 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sue Downing

Loving God, we offer these gifts in celebration of your love and grace. We pray that these gifts, and the givers, will be instruments of your love and peace in the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Debra Davies

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**

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

GTG 258

SENDING**CHARGE AND BLESSING****POSTLUDE**

**All who wish to do so may stand.*

*Words/images are signposts that point us to God; yet these words/images are not God.
Realizing words have power, every effort is made to use inclusive, expansive language for God.
You are invited to substitute word/images that are most comfortable for you during this time of
worship.*

*A special welcome to our guests. Your presence among us is a gift to our beloved community. We trust
God will draw you back to God's home—here at First Presbyterian Church of Monroe. Would you
give us the privilege of connecting with you by signing a pew card and placing it in the offering plate?*

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.*



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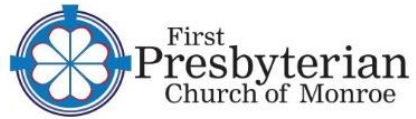
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FPC Monroe Worship Team

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Rob Edwards, Director of Music
Jen Edwards, Director of Handbell Choir
Sue Downing, Liturgist
Debra Davies, Guest Speaker
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team
Helyn Schroeder, Usher
Jim Crammond, Usher



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