

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe*  
*First Sunday in Lent*  
*March 6, 2022*



*Here in the Sand*

You've been here before—  
In the wilderness, in the desert,  
In the place where nothing is what it seems  
And everything is sharp.  
You've been here before  
So surely you know how hard it is  
To hold tight to what is real  
In the middle of a storm  
But because you've been here before,  
I will stand tall.  
I will sing songs of the river;  
From here in the sand.  
I will sing songs of the river;  
Into the wind.



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

## Full to the Brim - *Even in the desert*

God loves the real you—the messy, authentic, honest you.

*God, I am so used to putting on a filter. I slide into different versions of myself based on the room I'm in, but I don't want to do that with you. I want to bring my full self, the one you created. Give me the strength to pull back the layers. Give me the strength to bring exactly who I am to you, knowing it is more than enough. Amen.*

### Prelude

### Welcome

### \*Hymn

*“God Is Here Today/Dios esta aqui”*

*GTG 411*

*Dios es-ta a-qui*

**God is here today;**

*tan cier-to co-mo el ai-re que res-pi-ro*

**as certain as the air I breath**

*tan cier-to co-mo la ma-na-na se le-van-ta*

**as certain as the morning sun that rises,**

*tan cier-to co-mo que le can-to y me pue-de o-i*

**as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.**

### Call to Worship

Charlotte Frary

Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

**Jesus went into the city to heal.**

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

**Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.**

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

**but Jesus also went to the wilderness.**

There is nowhere we can go

that God does not walk with us.

**We are in God's house.**

**Let us worship Holy God.**

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

**Teach us a new way.**

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—

**Teach us a new way.**

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

**Teach us a new way.**

**Teach us to live as you live.**

**Teach us to love as you love.**

**Forgive us when we don't.**

**Gratefully we pray, amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Siblings in Christ,  
no matter how many times we mess up,  
no matter how far we wander,  
no matter how lost we feel,  
God's grace is full to the brim.  
It overflows in desert places.  
It finds us where we are and  
it covers us in mercy.

Hear and believe this good news—

**God's love is overflowing.**

**We are drenched in mercy.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### *"My Soul is At Rest"*

*"My soul is at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from God."*

## Prayer for Illumination

God of the wilderness places in our lives,  
it can be hard to hear you in the desert.  
It can be hard to hear you in the city,  
in the midst of our calendar reminders,  
rush-hour traffic, and notification alerts.  
It can be hard to hear you, so we ask:  
make everything quiet.  
Pause the chaos.  
Still the rushing.  
Ease our racing thoughts.  
Give us ears to hear your Word for us today

Charlotte Frary

which promises that even in the desert  
you are full to the brim.  
We are listening.  
We ache for your good news.  
Gratefully we pray, amen.

## Scripture

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Luke 4:1-13

Charlotte Frary

Charlotte Frary

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## Time of Reflection

### Affirmation of Faith

We believe God is love.

**We believe God's love is overflowing.**

We believe Jesus is a river.

**We believe that river is running toward us.**

We believe the Holy Spirit is a vessel.

**We believe that vessel holds mercy for you and for me.**

We believe the wilderness is real.

**We believe the desert is lonely.**

We believe that Jesus has been there.

**We know that we do not walk alone.**

Even in the desert,

**we are loved.**

Even in the desert,

**God is with us.**

Even in the desert,

**this love overflows.**

Thanks be to God,

**amen.**

## \*Hymn

“Even in the Desert”

## Call to Offering

### \*Doxology

GTG 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### The Lord's Prayer

### \*Hymn

“O Lord, You Were Sent”

GTG 411

## Benediction

## 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?*



## Attributions

Cover Image used with permission: sanctifiedart.org

Excerpt from "Here in the Sand" used with permission: Written by: Rev. Sarah Speed| sanctifiedart.org

"God loves the Real You" Prayer used with permission. Written by: Rev. Sarah Speed| sanctifiedart.org

Liturgy used/adapted with permission. Written by: Rev. Sarah Speed| sanctifiedart.org

## Music

"God Is Here Today". GTG 411. TEXT: Raúl Galeano, 1976; trans.; C. Michael Hawn, 1998; trans. © 1999 Choristers Guild; MUSIC (DIOS ESTÁ AQUÍ, Irregular): Raúl Galeano, 1976; arr. C. Michael Hawn and Arturo González, 1999; arr. © 1999 Choristers Guild. Words and music used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 737704 All rights reserved. Permission to podcast/stream obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-737704. All rights reserved.

"Even in the Desert". Hymn inspired by A Sanctified Art's "Full to the Brim. Words: Stephen M. Fearing (2021) Tune: ARNSBERT (6.6.8.6.6.8.3.3.6.6). Used with permission. "Copyright 2021 Stephen M. Fearing | [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com)"

"My Soul is at Rest", GTG 843. TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984. MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1981. Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. Words and music used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-737704 All rights reserved. Permission to podcast/stream obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-737704. All rights reserved.

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow". GTG 606. TEXT: *Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709*. TEXT and MUSIC are public domain.

"O Lord, You Were Sent". Tune: Traditional American melody ("How Firm a Foundation"). Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

### **FPC Monroe Worship Team**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor

Rob Edwards, Director of Music

Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team

Randy Stiffler, Sound Team

Charlotte Frary, Liturgist



108 Washington Street  
Monroe, Michigan 48161  
734-242-1545

Pastor Doris—Contact Information  
Church office: (734) 242-1545 and select option 11  
Email: [dchandler@monroefirst.org](mailto:dchandler@monroefirst.org)

### **Session**

#### Class of 2022

Mark Baker  
Liz Cunningham  
Ann Lux

#### Class of 2023

MaryAnne Hooper  
Jennifer Hueston  
Ann Orwin

#### Class of 2024

Diane Adams  
Kay Gawle  
Maria Ross

*John Chesman, Clerk of Session*

### **Board of Deacons**

#### Class of 2022

Josh Bahny  
Nicole Bahny  
Michael Dushane  
Terry Dushane  
Lynn Geiman  
Cathy Shorter

#### Class of 2024

Judy Chesman  
Sue Downing  
Mary DeSloover  
Courtney Fankhauser  
Yoshie Pomerville  
Karen Sobieralski

*Mary DeSloover, Chairperson Board of Deacons*