

February 28, 2021  
Second Sunday in Lent

This pre-recorded service by the Presbytery of Detroit, is available at this address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Czvg6-nC4Q>

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 10

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Psalm 111

Mark 1:21-28

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Psalm 42:11b

### The Church Gathers To...

#### Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

### Praise Almighty God

#### Call to Worship

God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and your likeness.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

We remember how you spoke into the chaos and brought forth creation.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

We remember the ways you have delivered your people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment.

**And so, we still have courage to dream the impossible.**

You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation, stripped identities, and unjust laws.

**And so, we still have courage to dream the impossible.**

God, you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.

**We give thanks for your dreaming prophets today, especially Martin Luther King Jr. Honoring his witness, we pray for your strength, O God, as we follow in this humble walk seeking your justice.**

#### Anthem

O Lord Freedom

# Confess to a Forgiving Creator

## Prayer of Confession

God of righteousness, your servant Martin told us, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We know we are caught in an inescapable net of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. In this pandemic moment, when we so desperately depend upon our leaders to protect our health, this network is a living, breathing reality. But even now, too often we fail to listen to the cries of the oppressed, near and far. We fail to see how our siblings pain is our pain. Instead we count our blessings and turn side. Yet we are now hurting. The hurts of the world are deep, and we are caught in nets of sin, whose bindings cut into us. We are trapped in cages of climate change, and a global economy that devalues human life, and your good creation. We are hemmed in by long and complicated histories of racism, bigotry, white supremacy, colonialism, genocide, and greed. Lord, set us free from these prisons with your spirit, wisdom, and understanding. Send your spirit of purpose and strength to lead us to a new way of being. Let your spirit of knowledge teach us to love, so at long last your justice may roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an everflowing stream. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

### Sung Response

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the  
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -  
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,  
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The second staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The third staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

# Listen for God's Word

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Readings

Psalm 42:9-11

Luke 9: 21-26

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### Reading

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

### Anthem

How I Got Over

### Sermon

The Measure of Our Lives

Rev. Dr. Alton Pollard, III

President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

## Respond to God's Word

### Affirmation of Faith

from the Belhar Confession

**We believe that God has revealed Godself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged. God brings justice to the oppressed and give bread to the hungry. That God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek what is right. The church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream. The church as a possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Amen.**

### Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

### Prayer of Dedication

### Anthem

Total Praise

### Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

# Go To Serve With God's Blessing

**Anthem**

Steal Away to Jesus

**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Alton Pollard, III

## About Today's Service

This video is a worship service remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and honoring our God of Justice and Peace, presented by the Michigan Black Presbyterian Caucus and the Multicultural Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Detroit. FPC Davenport is glad to share in this worship service on the last Sunday of Black History Month, and to be connected to Presbyterians across the nation. Worship leaders include: Elder Sharon Moore (St. John's Presbyterian Church), Ms. Allison Oglesby and Mr. Martin Oglesby (Calvary Presbyterian Church), Mr. Victor Boyd (Westminster Presbyterian Church), Rev. Jennifer Saperstein (Northside Presbyterian Church), Elder Jonathan Itchon (Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church), Ms. Autumn Palmer and Mr. Billa Zama (Westminster Presbyterian Church), Elder Deborah Crump Fair (President of the Michigan Black Presbyterian Caucus), Rev. Dr. Alton Pollard III (President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary), Rev. Eddie Jusino (First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills), Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan (Orchard Lake Community Church), Ms. Patricia Hall (St. John's Presbyterian Church), Rev. Dr. Floretta Barbee-Watkins (Transitional General Presbyter of Detroit Presbytery).

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Prayers are Welcome for:** Jamie Johnson , Scott and Bonnie Johnson (*death of husband and son, Nic*); Bev Koos; Rebecca Koos; Tom Vaccaro; families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters; FPC members and all others receiving the COVID vaccine.

## 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting - Today, 11:15 AM

The 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting is today at 11:15 AM. The focus of the Annual Congregational Meeting is to receive reports from 2020 with a look at 2021. Sixty (60) church members are required for a quorum. You are strongly encouraged to join us. The meeting will be conducted on Zoom. Log-in information is provided here.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99339656963?pwd=L0FETjQwUTJ5TWgyWHRpQ0JHdTRNUT09>

Meeting ID: 993 3965 6963

Passcode: 463388

Links to documents can be found on the FPC website at <https://www.fpcdavenport.org/sp022821>. You may also request a paper copy of any or all of the documents by contacting the church office.

## **Deacons' Toilet Paper Drive**

It's toilet paper time! Once again, the Deacons are sponsoring a toilet paper drive. From now until March 31 you may bring donations to the church, which will be given to the Humility of Mary Shelter services. Not shopping during the pandemic? Send your monetary donations to the church office. Deacons await to do your toilet paper shopping for you! Let's demonstrate love in action and support this worthy cause.

## **Virtual Silent Auction for Ireland Trip, Ends March 17 - Support Our Music Mission Outreach**

During these short cold days of winter a team of FPC musical leprechauns have been building a Virtual Auction site (<http://betterworld.org/auctions/st-patricks-day-silent-auction>) where church members and visitors can bid on new items, collectibles, and services from the comfort of their homes beginning March 1 with the finale day being (of course) St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The finale event will take place on March 17 at 7:00 pm via Facebook Live (from the church's Facebook page), and will include Irish music and information about auction items and the 2022 choir tour; bidding ends at 8:00 pm on that day.

Here is a wee samplin' of auction items!

Private pool party complete with margaritas	John Deere collectibles gift basket
\$100 Biaggi's gift card	Handy Man for a Day
Handmade hardwood snack table	Signed and framed photography
Hawthorne and Halverson original artwork	And so much more!

All funds raised during this 17-day virtual auction will support our Sanctuary Choir's Music Mission Outreach in Ireland in July 2022. Mission projects taking plac in Ireland will be shared in future Broadcasters and pre-trip programs. But for nowour leprechauns want you to get comfortable with the website and visit it often from March 1-17!

It's Easy to navigate, check your items, and pay online (<http://fpcbetterworld.org/auctions/st-patricks-day-silent-auction>;

It's Fun to learn what your church friends are donating;

It's for a Good Cause — music and mission!

## **Christian Education for Youth (CEFY) Spring 2021**

### **Kirkwood Choir Schedule** – Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 PM

The tentative Kirkwood Choir Early Spring 2021 schedule is listed below. The Club meets on scheduled Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact Linda Bengfort for further information.

March 3    March 10    March 17 – IN RECESS

To get youth group updates, email Sarah Greim ([sgreim@gmail.com](mailto:sgreim@gmail.com)), or text @612thgra to 81010 (or add @612thgra on the Remind app).

### **Youth Events** - Grades 6-12

Until COVID rates go down, ACT and EPIC will be meeting monthly for games and activities. Save the dates for youth group fellowship activities! Everyone is welcome. We'll also have service activities, time and date *To Be Announced* depending on the project. We'll meet Sundays from 1:00 - 1:45 PM on March 28 and April 18.

### **Kirkwood Club** - Grades 1-5

Save the dates for our upcoming Kirkwood Club activities! We'll meet on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45 PM on March 24, and April 28. Hope to see you there! To get Kirkwood Club updates, email Sarah Greim ([sgreim@gmail.com](mailto:sgreim@gmail.com)), or text @fpcdkids to 81010.

### **Lenten Discussion Series - You're Invited!**

The Mission and Social Justice Team will be offering a five-week online Lenten video and discussion series entitled, "America's Unholy Ghosts: An Examination of Christianity, White Supremacy, and Racism." Using short videos produced by The Work of the People, Rev. Trey Hegar and Marta Pumroy will facilitate meaningful dialogue with participants after viewing the films during each session. All Presbyterians in East Iowa are invited to participate. Registration will be required in order to receive the ZOOM invitation. The series will be offered on both Sunday nights at 6:00 PM – led by Trey and then repeated on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 PM – led by Marta.

The series began on Sunday, February and Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

To watch a trailer and to register for the event, please go to <https://peia.org/unholy-ghosts/>

### **Confirmation Class Begins March 7!**

Spring is almost here and it's time to start confirmation! This class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to officially become church members. So that we're able to meet in person, this year's class will be a little different than before. We'll meet from 10:30-11:15 AM on Sundays from Sunday, March 7 to May 17. This intensive class will include service activities, worship leadership, and learning about other faiths. Our fantastic teachers this year are Sarah Greim, Al Frohlich, and Amy and Mike Saskowski! Families, you should have gotten an info letter in the mail - if you haven't, please contact the church office.

### **Join Online: Worship Watch Party - Sundays, 9:30 AM**

*For more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook.*

### **Sunday School is Online!**

Attention parents! Join us on Zoom for Sunday School! We meet from 10:30-11:00 AM every Sunday for Bible stories, sharing, and learning together. For security, the Zoom link is being emailed - please be sure to register for Sunday school (or contact Paula Hartmann [ppelhartmann@aol.com](mailto:ppelhartmann@aol.com)) so we can get your kids involved!

### **Cherubs and MusikGarten – Sundays, 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

Cherubs and MusikGarten meet on Zoom to coincide with our Sunday School schedule. MusikGarten will meet from 10:30-11:00 AM. Infants through three year-olds and their parents are invited to come to MusikGarten. Cherubs will meet from 11:00-11:15 AM following their Sunday School class that begins at 10:30 AM. Cherubs are in pre-school and Kindergarten. If you have questions about either group, contact Kathy Middleton ([kathryn15@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn15@gmail.com); 563-505-0471.)

### **Adult Christian Education (ACE): *Self-Development of People Panel* – Sunday, March 14, 10:45-11:45 AM**

ACE is IN RECESS today – please attend the Annual Meeting.

**Sunday, March 14:** Join us for a panel presentation and Q&A all about the PC(USA)'s *Self-Development of People* program! SDOP partners with community groups to provide change by, for, and with low-income people. Presenters will be Margaret Mwale, PC(USA) Associate for Community Development and Constituent Relations, Mandy Adams Henderson, Chair for the National SDOP Community & Church-Wide Relations Committee, and Rev. Dr. Bec Davis, SDOP Committee Member.

Join us on Zoom at 10:45 AM:

<https://zoom.us/j/91539050753?pwd=b2JYN0VyOW52N0ZESHQ2YUhyelhtUT09>

Meeting ID: 915 3905 0753, Passcode: ACE

### **Bible Basics 201** - Tuesdays, 6:15 pm

Join us for a series on Reformers and the Reformation, a month-long series studying reformers in our church history! Please contact Mark Jones ([mkjones@mchsi.com](mailto:mkjones@mchsi.com)) for more information.

March 2: Jan Hus      March 8: Bible Translations During the Reformation

We'll meet 6:15-7:15 PM on Tuesdays over Zoom until further notice. The Zoom address will stay the same.

Join online-<https://zoom.us/j/98965381440?pwd=TUdyMXltRTMrRXdFWnBEZ0NEKzBYUT09>

Meeting ID: 989 6538 1440

Passcode: 240979

### **Bible Basics 101** - Wednesdays, 6:45

This class is designed for those wanting to revisit many of our favorite childhood Sunday school stories or even hear about them for the first time. All are welcome. Join in anytime. Please contact Mark Jones ([mkjones@mchsi.com](mailto:mkjones@mchsi.com)) for more information.

Zoom information for Bible Basics 101:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93804817828?pwd=S1R3ZlB2Ly9zeGh3YnJoNEhDaVBjQT09>

Meeting ID: 938 0481 7828

Passcode: Jonah

### **Highlights from February 2021 Session Meeting**

- Nancy Chapman and John Gere updated the Session on the stained-glass window restoration project. They provided a brief history of restoration work completed, information on additional work that is needed, and the potential funding sources for that work, including the status of grant proposals.
- Approved a motion from the Pandemic Task Force that will allow for the start of outdoor Sunday worship and communion as early as March when weather allows.
- Approved a motion from the Personnel Committee for Sarah Greim and Paula Hartmann to assume responsibilities in Christian Education for the short-term.
- Received an e-mail from the Synod Administrative Review Committee that their final report is should be provided to the Session and the Presbytery of East Iowa on March 1, 2021.
- Appreciation was given to Rev. Dr. Pam Saturnia, FPC Muscatine, who has been our Moderator since September 2020. This was her last Session meeting with us. Rev. Kathy Stoner-Lasala will assume that duty in March.