

July 31, 2022

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for 130 Years

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

God Welcomes Us

Announcements, Birthdays, and Recognition of Visitors

Safe-Distance Passing of the Peace of Christ *(please stand as you are able)*

Ruling Elder Prayer Blessing

Prelude and Setting the Table for Worship

God Gathers Us

The Call to Worship

One: God has given us this day

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: God has gathered us in this place

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: There are many places we could be, but God has brought us here

All: Thanks be to God for bringing us here!

God's steadfast love endures forever! Thanks be to God!

One: Come, let us worship God.

Opening Hymn

"God of Great and God of Small"

Glory to God #19

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

All: Faithful God, we confess our faithlessness. Our hearts are fickle, our eyes wander, and we trick ourselves into serving little gods. We speak lies, accept lies, live lies, destroying others and ourselves along the way. As we reflect on our week we realize we have wandered from you.

[Moment of silent confession]

All: Reassure us, O Emmanuel. Help us to trust in your faithfulness and settle your truth in our hearts.

Declaration of Forgiveness and Song of Gratitude "Amen"

Glory to God #600

Unison Prayer

All: Extravagant God: you offer riches that no earthly pleasures can match. You pour out mercy and cover us with love. You show us true justice and offer us peace. You provide us with every need and promise us eternal life with you. Bathe us in the light of Christ, illumine us with your Holy Spirit, and enable us to live only for you. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

A Time for Young People

Jeannette Holton

Kindergarteners and older children may get clipboards from the front pew.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:1-11 (see insert)

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Song of Preparation

"Seek Ye First"

Glory to God #175

Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Reading *(please stand as you are able)*

Luke 12:13-21 (see insert)

One: These words are trustworthy and true.

All: Thanks be to God!

Proclamation of the Word

"What to Do With All This Wealth"

Rev. Sheth LaRue

We Respond To God's Word

The Offertory & The Prayer of Dedication *(please stand as you are able)*

Joys and Concerns & Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

God Sends Us

Closing Hymn

"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

Songs of Zion #98

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

St. Gregory the Great taught that when we care for the needs of the poor we are giving them what is theirs, not ours. We are not performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice.

In the abundance of what we have, how can we be rich towards God? Not in the abundance of our bank accounts...in the abundance of what we have! Are you rich in time? Are you wealthy in speaking a good word to a friend? Do you share what is in your bank of joy? Do you have an abundance of smiles? What do you have today—right now—that you can share with your neighbors? How can you be rich towards God this week?

Participants in Today's Service

Worship Leader: Rev. Sheth LaRue
Musician: Evan Closser
Children's Sermon: Jeannette Holton
Worship Assistant: Jeannette Holton
Vocalist: Evan Closser
Audio/Video: Bob Ziebart and Gordon Helm
Greeters:

Church Staff Members

Pastor: Rev. Sheth LaRue
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Doug Petersen
Music Minister: Evan Closser
Child Care Teacher: Annabelle Lopez
Custodians: Lee Hamilton and Charase Dorsey
Ministers: All the Church Members

Our Mission

We of First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor are a small family of believers committed to bridging the gulf of racial and class separation. As a part of the body of Christ in Benton Harbor and acknowledging Christ's claim on our lives, our congregation is called to proclaim the Gospel and witness to Christ's love, both within the faith community and in our larger community. In doing this we will share our faith with openness, love, warmth, and respect for the dignity and individuality of all people; we will welcome and value diversity; we will strive to meet the needs of people in our community for sustenance and nurturing, and we will seek to deepen and broaden our own faith as we journey. We will do these through the doctrine and structures of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



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This Week's Scripture

Colossians 3:1-11 (NRSV)

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12:13-21 (NRSV)

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

Coming Up

Sunday - July 31st

Fellowship & Refreshments immediately following service

Tuesday - August 2nd

Bible Study @ 10 am in the Gathering Space

Pub Theology @ 8 pm at The Livery (190 5th St. Benton Harbor)

Friday - August 5th

Pastor Sheth's Sabbath (Call for emergencies only or contact any one of your elders)

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Do you need a ride to church? Can you offer someone a ride to church? If you can answer yes to either of these questions, please contact Liz Allen or Michelle Stone and they'll coordinate with you to ensure you can make it to church – or bring someone to church.

Church Workday: August 6th @ 9 am – 11 am.

We'll be cleaning up limbs and leaves, pulling weeds and pranks. Come join Pastor Sheth in a small labor of love!

The Spiritual Life Committee is resuming its work here at the church! What does this committee do, you ask? Alongside Pastor Sheth, they plan worship, oversee Christian Education, and organize activities and programs related to the congregation's spiritual growth and development. If you'd like more information or would like to join this committee's work, please contact Liz Allen.

Help With Worship! We are looking for some folks to help us with worship. We need greeters and liturgists for our Sunday services. This is very easy work and pretty enjoyable, too! We have a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space—pick a date and join in the fun!

NOTE: This worship service will be broadcast on Facebook Live.

COVID-19 Precautions Statement

Out of an abundance of caution, especially for the sake of any unvaccinated members or guests, we will continue to use the following precautions.

1. *If you feel unwell, please stay home and worship with us through Facebook Live. Or, if you are just uncomfortable gathering in a worship community at this time, please continue to worship with us on Facebook Live.*
2. *We ask everyone to maintain social distance by sitting in family groups either on the ends of pews or in the middle of a pew.*
3. *We encourage, but will not require, face mask wearing.*
4. *Any activity that might bring people into close contact with each other, like the Passing of the Peace, the Offering, and the Sacrament of Communion, will be done at a distance.*
5. ***We are not standing for hymn singing yet because of the increased risk of COVID-19 transmission.***

Of course, the Session will evaluate these precautions each month during its stated meeting. (Note: If Berrien Counties 14-day average new case rate and/or its 14-day average positive test rate rise above the thresholds again, the Session will need to consider going back to virtual or outdoor services of worship.)

Our goal is to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, and with love and consideration for all who may attend our service of worship.



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