



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 474-6170
www.farmington-pres.org

Please enter the sanctuary quietly, in reverence to our Lord and others meditating.

March 10th, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

Prayer of Preparation

May the Lord grant that we may engage in contemplating the mysteries of God's heavenly wisdom with really increasing devotion, to his glory and to our edification. Amen *(Prayer offered by John Calvin before his classes and sermons)*

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

MJ Floreno

Prelude

I Prélude au Kyrie Hommage à Frescobaldi

Jean Langlais

*Call to Worship

MJ Floreno

Liturgist: Who are you?

People: WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY OF JESUS.

Liturgist: Are you aware that the way of Christ is not easy, but that it also involves sacrifice, commitment, and may be filled with danger?

People: YES, WE ARE. BUT WE COME TO LIVE IN THE WAY OF CHRIST, TO LOVE AND TO SHARE AS DID CHRIST OUR LORD.

Liturgist: Then I welcome you as brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: LET US WORSHIP GOD!

*Opening Hymn #450

Be Thou My Vision

Mary E. Byrne

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

**2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of
my power.**

**3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**4 High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's
Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

MJ Floreno

**Lord, you call us to be your church, the body of your son. We confess that we
enjoy the privilege more than we do the responsibility. We enjoy the warmth of
friends so much we are tempted not to reach out to the stranger in our midst. We
are so indebted to the world for its empty promises of life that we lose the freedom
of spirit which you would bestow upon us. Thus, we make the gospel pale and dull.
O lord, let your spirit flow through this gathered community like a cleansing and
life-giving breeze, so that we may depart more vibrant of spirit and more filled with
your love which can make us all new. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Loren M. Scribner

We Hear God's Word

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 51:10-17

MJ Floreno

New Revised Standard Version

- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Anthem

Amazing Grace
First Pres Choral Bells
Alison Birmingham, Violin

Virginia Harmony
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

New Testament Reading

John 12:20-33

Rev. Dr. Loren M. Scribner

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon

Tell Me

Rev. Dr. Loren M. Scribner

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Rev. Dr. Loren M. Scribner

**Direct, control, suggest, this day,
in all I design, do, or say,
that all my powers, with all of their might,
might serve you both day and night.**

arr. Shari Fiore

Prayers of the People

MJ Floreno

Prayer of Thanksgiving

MJ Floreno

O Lord, with your help, we dare look inward during this Lenten season.

Help us to examine our own sins before we criticize others.

Help us to forgive our debtors,

so that we may experience your forgiveness of us.

Grant to us the courage to feel both hurt and joy,

even as your son Jesus experienced life in all its fullness.

Give us also the grace to look upward.

We are a people with feet of clay.

We too often fail and become discouraged.

Our dreams shatter and leave us spiritless.

Grant that we might find peace and comfort in the assurance that...

on good days and on bad,

we live always within your loving arms.

Give us the grace to look around us.

You have blessed us with friends and family,

our church community,

a wonderful country and a beautiful world.

We are grateful for all of this.

But help us, also, to listen to the cries of others,

that we might be more understanding of them,

even as you are toward us.

Finally, O Lord, help us to look forward.

Let not the dreams of the prophets die with us,

or fade because of lost faith or weak hearts.

May your Kingdom come...upon this earth,

and let it begin with us.

And even when fear threatens to overcome us,,

help us to trust in the way of your son,

and to become agents of reconciliation and peace.

Lord, during this season of Lent we are reminded of the reality of sin,

and of our complicity in its destruction.

But remind us also that with your love,

we can overcome sin and death.

So help us to declare with our entire lives, O God,

You alone do we trust,

You alone do we worship,

You alone do we serve,

and to you alone, do we dare pray...Our Father....

“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

We Follow God's Word into the World

*Hymn for Lent #166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* Claudia F.I. Hernaman

**1 Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to
mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

**2 As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.**

**3 And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**

**4 Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.**

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Loren M. Scribner

Postlude

Blessed Assurance

Phoebe Palmer
Knapp arr. Mark Hayes

Memorial Service for Larry Gage

The memorial service for Larry Gage is scheduled for Friday March 15th, at 2pm at First Pres. with a gathering in Knox Hall to follow the service.

Today's Guest Preacher is Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner

Please give a warm return welcome to Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner, a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church, USA. He reports that his earliest Christian experience was that of a neighborhood Pentecostal congregation that offered lots of love but not many answers to his many questions. It was not until after Loren joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 19 and was invited by Uncle Sam to take a 10-month vacation to the Far East, that religion became a fascinating subject to him. He encountered Buddhists and Shintos in Japan, Confucians in China, atheists and Baptists and Catholics and fundamentalists on board ship. All of this was a bit overwhelming. Finally, a chaplain advised: "Loren, either go back to school and study Christianity or forget it altogether." He did, go back to college, that is. Loren graduated from Indiana University in 1963 with a major in medieval history and minors in medieval philosophy and Greek. He graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) in 1966 and was ordained by the presbytery of Logansport. While serving a congregation in Kouts, IN Loren received a master's in theology from Valparaiso University. In 1970 he accepted a call to the Kirk of Our Savior in Westland, MI. While serving at the Kirk Loren began his Doctor of Ministry Studies at SFTS. In 1979 he accepted a call to be pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis, MI. Sturgis was a great congregation, but Loren longed to teach and finally accepted a position in 1988 as a teaching chaplain at Schreiner University, a Presbyterian college in Kerrville, TX. Since his retirement in 2003 he has had the pleasure of teaching religion at Marygrove College, Henry Ford Community College, and the University of Detroit Mercy. Loren worships at the Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Sharon, have three children and three grandchildren.

Please welcome special musical guest today, Alison Birmingham, playing the violin.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome MJ Floreno as today's liturgist. Jim Tubbs will serve as liturgist on March 17th. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Transitional Pastor Search Committee

We are all eagerly awaiting our new Transitional Pastor and we understand you want to know all about him. He is still expected to begin on April 21. His current congregation will be informed of his departure on March 10, so out of respect and sensitivity to his current congregation, we will hold off to share more details until mid-March. His current congregation is located in Michigan, and it is a small world, after all. We wouldn't want someone in our congregation who may know someone in his congregation to reveal what would then be shocking news if they had not yet been informed. Let's continue to be sensitive to the needs of his congregation in Christ's love and love them as we would want to be loved and cared for in their situation.

Join Us TODAY for a Coffee Hour Conversation: Communicating Across Generations Presentation

The purpose of presentation is for you to appreciate the differences and understand how we all like to be treated. Today we will discuss and learn about characteristics of each generation, how they communicate, what motivates them, keywords that relate to them. Tom Neal will be presenting to the congregation using information from Optimist International Office.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

OGHS envelopes are available on the table as you enter the sanctuary. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church Farmington but be sure to note that it is for OGHS in the memo line.

Charity Collection

The Presbytery of Detroit is collecting toilet paper for those in need. Church will deliver any TP dropped off at church but another easy way to help is by "shopping" online, like Amazon, and having your purchase delivered directly to Presbytery. The address is: 17575 Hubbell Street, Detroit, MI 48235.

Please pay your 2024 Per Capita Apportionment

The Presbyterian Church is a "connectional" church where we interact through the Presbytery of Detroit, the Synod of the Covenant and the General Assembly. These councils are funded

by the “Per Capita” on each of our active members. For 2024, the Per Capita amount is \$36.00. We ask that you contribute \$36.00 for each member of your household confirmation age and above to help offset this amount. Checks may be made payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington; please note “Per Capita” on the memo line.

Preschool Open Enrollment



The Preschool is now open for enrollment for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. Please spread the word about our Preschool to friends and family who may be interested in enrolling. The program offers 2.5s, 3s and Pre-K (4s) classes. Please visit the website:

<https://farmingtonprespreschool.org/enroll/> or call the preschool:

(248) 474-9752 to schedule a tour and/or pick up your enrollment forms.

Cards for a Cause Fundraisers

offer boxed sets of 30* beautifully embellished cards with matching envelopes to help your organization reach their fundraising goal.

*Holiday Card Collection Box includes 50 cards and envelopes.



FPP Fundraiser-Cards for a Cause

Farmington Presbyterian Preschool is hosting their spring fundraiser, and we think you are going to be excited about the practical use, incredible value, and fundraising potential associated with the "Cards for a Cause" program! Throughout the year, we all need greeting cards for various occasions: birthdays, thank you, get well, anniversary, sympathy, and more. A nice card at the store costs anywhere from \$5-8, plus the gas and time involved. Both you and your friends, family members, and co-workers will love these

themed keepsake boxes of 30 beautiful, handmade greeting cards—for only \$30! There are five different types of boxed sets you can choose from: All occasions (2 different sets), thanks & blanks, Holiday set (with 50 total cards), kids birthday box. The fundraiser will run from **March 4th to March 18th**. All orders are due by **March 18th** and should be turned in to Farmington Presbyterian Preschool. **PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL.** Contact Carly Vivio if you have any questions at info@farmington-pres.org or visit the church office for more information to place an order.

On-Call List for Personnel

The Personnel Committee is putting together an on-call list of people who could be available to volunteer to staff the office in the event that all office staff are sick or simultaneously out of the office. Please email Bob Van Hamme mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com and/or Sally Kirsten sckirsten@hotmail.com at for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

FPCF is looking for Legal Counsel

From time to time, there are contracts or other documents to be reviewed to ensure everything is correct and all parties are covered. If there is anyone in the church willing to provide help in this area or if there are any recommendations, please contact the church office.

FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

Have you picked up your CARES shopping list yet? Look for it in the pew backs or the Mission bulletin board. Take it with you to the store. The items on the list are those most needed by the guests at CARES. Here is a suggestion: If you see a BOGO Sale (Buy One, Get One), pick up the free item for CARES.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library**. Sunday Topic: **Alabama Supreme Court Ruling on IVF Unsettles Nation**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

COVID-19 or Flu Symptoms

Please be mindful if you have symptoms, stay home, and take care of yourself and others.

Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

March 17: Last names beginning E-K

March 24: Last names beginning L-R

March 31: Last names beginning S-Z

April 7: Last names beginning A-D

News from the Church Office

Office hours are as follows: **Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**; **Wednesdays: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** The office is closed on Fridays. It is a good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building. As a reminder, please contact the church office via telephone at (248) 474-6170 or email at info@farmington-pres.org.

Holy Week Services

March 24 – Palm Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

The beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final journey to the cross.

March 28 – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae- @7:00 p.m.

Service of the Shadows & Sacrament of Holy Communion.

March 31– Easter Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

Celebration of the Resurrection



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

livestreamed & in person.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist

Office Administrative Assistant

Office Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

The Rev. Craig S. Aue

Shari Fiore-Bloom

Carly Vivio

Amanda Schreiber

Jaiden Thomas



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48334



2024 Easter Flowers Order Form

All orders are due by Monday, March 25



Please place your order for Easter lilies and tulips (in 6-inch pots with foil cover) and/or fresh produce for CARES by completing this form and returning it along with your payment. Plants may be taken after the Easter worship service at 10:00 a.m. on March 31 or left for delivery to a homebound member.

☐ I / We wish to donate the following plant(s) or fresh produce for decorating the church on Easter Sunday. Please use the following recognition in the Easter bulletin:

In honor of _____
name of person(s)

In memory of _____
name of person(s)

Donated by: _____ Phone: (____) _____

I / We would like to order the following number of plants:

_____ Red Tulip plant - \$12 each

_____ Fresh Produce for CARES - \$15 each

_____ Easter Lily plant - \$16 each

Total due \$ _____ ☐ Payment included with order

☐ Please deliver my plant to a homebound member.

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