



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

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## January 14, 2024

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Prayer of Preparation

Rev. Susan Mozena

*Gracious God, may we enter this time of worship prayerfully, hopefully, and peacefully,  
with our hearts and minds open to hear and respond to your word. Amen.*

### We Enter into God's Presence

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Traditional American Melody  
arr. Joel Raney

Welcome / Greetings

Alvine Cooper

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Congregational Life

Alvine Cooper

*\*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 139:7-10)*

Alvine Cooper

One: Where can we go from God's spirit?

**All: If we ascend to heaven, God is there; if we make our bed in Sheol, God is there.**

One: If we take the wings of morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**All: Even there, God's hand shall lead us, and God's right hand will hold us fast.**

One: Let us worship God.

**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

Rev. Susan Mozena

God knows us better than we know ourselves. God knows our sins even before we confess.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Silent confession.

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

Rev. Susan Mozena

One: Amen. Hear the good news! God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. In the reconciling sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. (Portions taken from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., 1983).

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination (Based on *Psalm 19:14*)

Alvine Cooper

**ALL: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. As we approach your Word, may we be ready to receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.**

New Testament Reading

*Romans 5:1-11*

Alvine Cooper

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Anthem

*Show Me Thy Ways*  
Chancel Choir

Walter Pelz

Old Testament Reading

*Psalm 139*

Rev. Susan Mozena

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
 if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning  
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me,  
 and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
 and night wraps itself around me,"  
<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you;  
 the night is as bright as the day,  
 for darkness is as light to you.  
<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
 Wonderful are your works;  
 that I know very well.  
<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
 when I was being made in secret,  
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
<sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
 In your book were written  
 all the days that were formed for me,  
 when none of them as yet existed.<sup>[i]</sup>  
<sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
 How vast is the sum of them!  
<sup>18</sup> I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
 I come to the end<sup>[i]</sup>—I am still with you.  
<sup>19</sup> O that you would kill the wicked, O God,  
 and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—  
<sup>20</sup> those who speak of you maliciously  
 and lift themselves up against you for evil!<sup>[d]</sup>  
<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?  
 And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?  
<sup>22</sup> I hate them with perfect hatred;  
 I count them my enemies.  
<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
 test me and know my thoughts.  
<sup>24</sup> See if there is any wicked way in me,  
 and lead me in the way everlasting.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*One half of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the Book of Confessions, a collection of theological statements from throughout Christian history, in general, and the history of the Reformed and Presbyterian churches. The Confession of 1967 was the first confession adopted by Presbyterian churches in the U.S.A. in over 300 years. It was written and adopted in order to address the pressing issues of modern society as they related to questions of faith and biblical interpretation.*

**All: To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.**

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.**

**The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

## **We Respond to God's Word**

Offertory & Doxology  
*Collection of Prayer Cards*

Rev. Susan Mozena

**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

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Susan Mozena

Eternal God, you call us to lives of love and justice: breaking down barriers that divide, building bridges of cooperation, peace, and beloved community. As we remember the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we pray for the day when all God's children can be free. We pray for the day your children will not be judged

by the color of their skin, but the content of their character. We pray for the day when hate and violence and bigotry are overpowered by love, peace and acceptance. Let justice roll down like waters, Holy God, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. For too long, God of justice, oppressed peoples have heard the word, "Wait." God, help us push toward progress on issues of justice and work diligently toward the vision of your kingdom community.

Holy, God, hear the prayers of your people:

Prayers of the People

Alvine Cooper

Pastoral Prayer Continues

Rev. Susan Mozena

As global wars rage and gun violence desecrates, protect the innocent, and help us prioritize efforts of peace. In the face of political polarization, help us listen more, seek understanding, and approach those with whom we disagree with curiosity, humility, and openness. Help us listen for the story beneath others' stories. In the face of fear and anxiety, pressures and provocation, help us find in you a refuge and strength, a steadfast support in times of trial. Remind us, Holy God, we are not alone. Bless those who are suffering, ill, and grieving. Bless those who feel weak and worn down by our world. United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, O God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together,

**"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 of Sending# 722      *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*      Frances Ridley Havergal

**1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children, lost and lone.**

**2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**

3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.

4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

5 O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Benediction

Rev. Susan Mozena

Postlude

*Stuttgart*

David Schelat

**Acknowledgments:** Portions of this liturgy were taken from The Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, editor and publisher of *Presbyterian Outlook*, “Looking Into the Lectionary,” *Presbyterian Outlook*, January 1, 2024.

**Please welcome back Rev. Susan Mozena, today’s guest preacher.**

The Rev. Susan d’Olive Mozena, ordained in the PC (USA) in 2009 at the age of 64, is “mostly” retired, serving as Parish Associate at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, where she continues to lead Bible studies, preaches and leads worship occasionally, and provides some adult education on Sunday mornings from time to time. A board-certified hospital chaplain, Susan provides spiritual care on a very part-time basis at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital. She and John, married for 55 years, have two children and three grandchildren.

### **Worship Liturgist**

We welcome Alvine Cooper as today’s liturgist. Tom Neal will serve as liturgist on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

### **Raymond B. Randolph Jr. to speak TODAY during coffee hour**

The Social Justice Book Club is honored to host Mr. Raymond B. Randolph Jr. to speak to us today at 11:15am during coffee hour. Mr. Randolph will speak on his personal experiences with significant events in Civil Rights history. He was one of the Richmond 34 – students from Virginia Union University who staged a sit-in at a department store lunch counter. He was also a member of the Freedom Riders, the Civil Rights activist group that traveled in interstate buses in Mississippi to challenge the local and state segregation laws.

### **Last Day for Jacket Drive for Second Mile Center (until January 15)**

Today is the last day to turn in new jackets for Second Mile Center. We'll be delivering this week to make sure everyone has a jacket to stay warm this winter as the weather turns colder. Please hang them in the Mission Cove area until January 15 or place them in the collection bins. Thank you for helping keep kids warm this winter!

### **Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 21**

Please join us in Knox Hall for the monthly town hall meeting on Sunday, January 21, while you're enjoying your coffee and treats. There will be updates on the search for a Transitional Pastor and we'll share results from the listening & training sessions and workshops held by our outside consultants. If you have any questions or concerns, let's talk about it.

### **First Pres Sailors Meeting on Sunday, Jan 28**

The Future Church Task Force regrouped in Nov/Dec and renamed our group as "First Pres Sailors" based on our reading of the book Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray. We gleaned many ideas from the book and our discussions. We're forming a prayer group to pray for the future of our church and are beginning to work on our self-study, which needs to be completed before we contract with a permanent pastor. Please join us and play an active role in the future direction of FPCF! We'll meet in the Garden Parlor Room on Sunday, January 28, at 11:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

### **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.

### **Electric Typewriter Needed**

The church office is looking for an electric typewriter, the current one is starting to experience issues. This is used to update the official church registers. These are legal documents which are typed and not yet converted to digital.

### **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:

January 14: Last names beginning A-D

January 21: Last names beginning E-K

January 28: Last names beginning L-R

February 4: Last names beginning S-Z





**\*\*Note:** On 1/11/2024, nurture committee invites you to gather for fellowship after worship where they will make and serve soup for the Super Bowl LVIII.

### **2024 Offering Envelopes**

Those who have used numbered envelopes in 2023 will automatically receive envelopes for 2024, unless you inform us otherwise. If you have NOT used envelopes this year, but DO wish to have them for next year, please contact the church office at 248-474-6170 to make your request known. Numbered envelopes facilitate the speed and accuracy of the data entry process for our offering counters, so we do encourage you to use envelopes if you contribute manually on a regular basis. We also encourage the use of electronic debit. If you wish to automatically submit your pledge electronically from your bank account monthly, please call the church office to have the forms mailed to you. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (248) 474-6170.

### **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.

### **COVID-19 or Flu Symptoms**

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

### **Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word**

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. Sunday's Topic: Moon Visits, Eclipse and Space Tourism Coming in 2024. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at [ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@sbcglobal.net).

### **News from the Church Office**

Office hours are as follows: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** 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](mailto:info@farmington-pres.org).

## **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



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