



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

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

October 29, 2023

21st Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

from the *Worship Sourcebook*, 2004
Faith Alive Christian Resources

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

Prelude	<i>Andantino from Pieces de Fantaisie, Op. 51, No. 2</i>	Louis Vierne
Sailboat Church		Stewardship
Minute for Mission		Sally Kirsten
		Calvin Malisow
Welcome / Greetings		Manny Sharpe
<i>Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards</i>		
Congregational Life		Manny Sharpe

*Please stand in body or spirit

Call to Worship

We gather to worship our God,
who speaks the words of peace we need in chaotic times.
We gather to follow Jesus,
who encourages to never fear, for he is near.
We gather to be filled with the Spirit,
who anoints us so we can go to serve our world.

**1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**3 God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to ring,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**4 God of heaven and earth, God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

The deepest longing of our hearts is to be forgiven and embraced by our God. As we confess our sins, God speaks peace to us and makes us whole. Join me, as we pray together, saying,

**In truth, God of silence and seas, we are more adept at making waves than
calming storms.**

**We find it easier to push people out of the boat, rather than make room for those
who are different from us. And our lives are such a whirlwind of activity, that we
do not notice your presence or hear your sheer silence singing your shalom to
us.**

**Have mercy on us, God of patience. Hold onto us to keep us from drowning in
our oceans of temptations. Give us the words to speak of your hope to others.
Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus Christ, which is nearer to us than we dare to
imagine.**

Silent prayer

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Romans 1:7-17

Manny Sharpe

New Revised Standard Version

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the

gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, ¹⁰ asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I want you to know, brethren, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish: ¹⁵ so I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

The Power of the Gospel

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live."

Anthem	<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i> Chancel Choir	George N. Allen, arr Roy Ringwald
Sermon	I Believe	Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi
Scripture Reading	<i>Matthew 14:22-33</i>	Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰ but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Statement of Faith	Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi
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We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that awaits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust;
and in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's forgiveness
and the power of the Spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful, so to be the Church,
for the glory of God. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith from Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona Abbey Worship Book.

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

**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

Manny Sharpe

You come as a great wind, splitting our fears into fragments,
breaking our prejudices apart, inviting us always to see and to feel in new ways.
You are the breath within us that energizes us to get out of the boat
and walk with you, even when it is challenging, difficult and uncertain.

You are the soft whisper in our hearts that makes us more caring.
Fill us with compassion for those among us who need help,
encouragement and support. Awaken us to ways in which we are your hands and feet,
heart and face to reach out and touch and love and make a difference.
For all we know who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, bring your healing presence
That they may be whole.

You come as an earthquake, knocking all our doctrines off their neat shelves,
calling us to know your truth in deeper ways that words can say.
You are the gentle touch that wakens us from our nightmares,
whispering, Do not be afraid. Give us courage to live more authentically
into our call to be your disciples, trusting that you dwell among and within us,
enabling us to be your Body alive and at work in this world.

You are the fire that rages against the injustices visited
upon the poor, the broken, the vulnerable, often in your name.
In this war-torn, broken world, bring your peace that passes all understanding—
Not just in thoughts and prayers, but in real practical ways
That mend the breach between peoples.
For all those in Ukraine, in Russia, in Israel, in Palestine,
Around the world, wherever there is conflict, may your peace reign again.

In this world that is so stormy, fill us with faith that you move in the places
where we cannot be, or where we have no idea how to help.
As you pass by us in so many ways, may we pay attention and bend ourselves
More fully to your love, your peace, your justice, your compassion, your life.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Manny Sharpe

Extravagantly Generous God, there is nothing we have, there is nothing we require,
there is nothing we long for that does not pale when placed beside the relationship
you've offered to us. As we bring our gifts to you, remind us of the covenant you put
before Israel: "If they will be my people I will be their God." Receive what we give in
gratitude for your invitation, and help us be your people, reflected in our love for you
and for all your children. God in Community, unite us now as we pray the prayer that
Jesus taught us, saying:

**"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# 815

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

Paul Gerhart

**1 Give to the winds thy fears;
hope, and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.**

**2 Through waves and clouds and storms
God gently clears the way.
Wait patiently; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.**

**3 Leave to God's sovereign sway
to choose and to command.
So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way,
how wise, how strong God's hand!**

**4 Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our final breath
thy love and guardian care.**

Benediction

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

Today's flowers are presented by Tom & Cathy Neal in honor of their 80th birthday's on October 25th & 26th.

Please welcome Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi, today's guest preacher.

Marjorie has served the Detroit Presbytery as Associate Pastor at Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian, as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, and as Parish Associate at Kirk in the Hills. She is certified by the Shalem Institute in Contemplative Leadership and a recent graduate of Living School for Action and Contemplation.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Manny Sharpe as today's liturgist. Sue Carlson will serve as liturgist on November 5th. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

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:

- November 5: Last names beginning L-R (Consecration Sunday—no snacks)
- November 12: Last names beginning S-Z
- November 19: Last names beginning S-Z
- November 26: Last names beginning A-D
- December 3: Last names beginning E-K

Scouts Wreath Sales



Scouts BSA Troop 179 are selling wreaths for the holidays. They will be for sale Sunday, November 19, before and after Church. The small wreath is \$27, the medium wreath is \$37, 25 feet of roping is \$30, and stands are \$6 each. If you would like one, but cannot be at Church on Sunday, please contact Katie Malisow at kmalisow@sbcglobal.net or by cell at 248-202-3411. We will happily deliver! We take checks, cash, Venmo or Cash App.

Sailboat Church



Worship dramas on
October 15, 22, and 29

Don't miss this series based
on Joan S. Gray's book!

The Sailboat Church

The theme for Stewardship 2024 is "Sailing Adventures With God." The Stewardship Committee has 3 short skits planned for October 15, 22, and 29 that are based on the book, "Sailboat Church" by Joan S. Gray. We hope you'll enjoy the adventures and antics of the passengers on a rowboat church and a sailboat church.

Fall Clean-up day Saturday Nov 4.

On Saturday Nov 4 at 8:30 am we will have our annual fall cleanup day. The main focus will be trimming the trees and shrubs around our property. Please bring saws and pruning tools that day. Cider and donuts will be provided. Any questions: contact Ron Prieskorn.

Pledge Forms and RSVP for Consecration Day Luncheon

By now, you should have received pledge forms and RSVP forms for the Consecration Day Luncheon. You may return the pink pledge form using the enclosed envelope or bring it with you on November 5, Consecration Sunday, and enjoy a lovely luncheon with your church family after the service. This is a special fellowship time for our church, and we hope to see you there! **RSVP's (located in the pews) for the Consecration Day Luncheon are due no later than TODAY, Sunday, October 29.** Please drop the RSVP in the collection basket as you leave today.

Mission opportunity - Crossroads of Michigan

The final date to help serve lunch at Crossroads of Michigan is Sunday Nov. 5. You can help with 1 or 2 shifts that morning depending on whether you are an early bird or not. The link for the Sign-up Genius for the Crossroads Meal on November 5 is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4EAAAF23A2FB6-44490287-crossroads>

Email or call Nancy Prieskorn to have the link sent by email to you or to be signed up.

Sunday doesn't work for you? On Friday morning, Nov. 3 we need to bake 1000 cookies (using premade cookie dough). We can even use extra help after 10:00 to bag up the cooled cookies. Do you prefer a sit-down job? We need onion slicers, too, on Friday.

Crossroads is serving 450-500 people every Sunday.

Save the Date-Nov. 5th

In two weeks, on November 5, we will welcome back the Waddles Jazz Group.

It is always a good time when the group returns to First Pres. Please mark your calendars!



All Saints' Day celebrated Sunday, Nov. 5

On Sunday, Nov. 5, we will observe All Saints Day during worship. All Saints' Day is a universal festival of the church. This festival day directs our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints. All Saints Day celebrates all the people of God, living and who

have moved to "More Life," who together form the mystical body of Christ. Below are the names of the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington who have been baptized, confirmed or have "Moved from this Life to More Life" during the past 12 months. At this service we will remember them in our prayers, and we give thanks for their lives.

Baptized (Future Generation):

Nova Renee Beaver
Mikah William Piontek

Moved from this Life to More Life (Past Generation):

Lincoln Avery III	David L. Carlson
Chuck Cozier	Millicent "Mimi" Cramer
William D. Draper	Shirley Kinsey
June Lymperis	Marvellee McEachin
Rosalie Perry	Ardis Scott
Marvin Tisdale, Sr.	Leslie R. Van Hamme

JOY Study - Open to New Members - Resumes Tuesday, November 7

The JOY Study meets on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom and is studying the Book of Acts which tells about the apostles as they navigated life in the world after they have been changed by Jesus. We are using the study guide "ACTS 24 Studies for Individuals and Groups" written by N.T. Wright, a New Testament scholar. His previous works have taught us a lot. Please join us - It's not too late to jump in. The book costs about \$10. Contact Sharon Cressman if you would like to join the group for the Zoom information.

Save The Date For PW Christmas Gathering

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. for the PW Christmas Gathering and play, open to all. This is a change from our usual evening event. This year's daytime Gathering, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," will include a catered lunch in Knox Hall after the play and music in the sanctuary. Tickets will be \$10 for the program and lunch.

Support CARES

A reminder that the November "suggested" donation for CARES is "something for baking". Consider donating a bag of flour or sugar; a brownie, muffin or cake mix; nuts, dates, or a can of pumpkin. Perhaps a spice, baking powder or a package of yeast is something that you'd like to donate. Baking something during the holidays makes for special memories with families. Thank you for helping to make those cherished memories with our neighbors!

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 9:00a.m. in the Library**. Advance copies are available Saturday before by email. **Sunday's Topic: Oregon State BOE Recommends Letting High Schoolers Graduate Without Taking Standardized Tests to Prove Proficiency in Required Subjects** To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

News from the Church Office

NEW FALL hours are in effect-the office is open Monday through Thursday. Hours are as follows: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-4pm; Wednesday: 9am-2pm**. As a reminder

please contact the church office via telephone at (248)474-6170 or email at info@farmington-pres.org. It will be a very good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church	Members of the Congregation
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	The Rev. Craig S. Aue
Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist	Shari Fiore-Bloom
Office Administrative Assistant	Carly Vivio
Office Assistant	Amanda Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Jaiden Thomas



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334