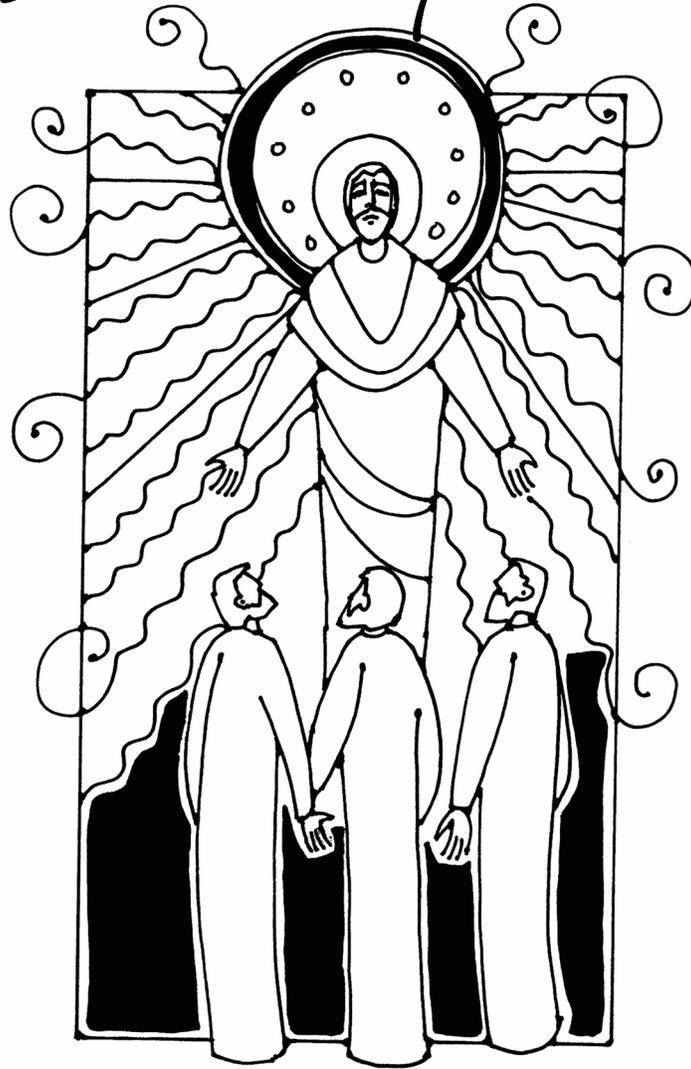


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Benton Harbor*



Listen Up!

Romans 13:1-7 + Matthew 17:1-9

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

February 15, 2026 • Transfiguration Sunday

# We Are Welcomed

## Welcome

## Opening Prayer

“A Prayer for Black Women” by Keosha Love

## Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

# We Are Gathered

## The Call to Worship

Hear these words of Jesus:

Come to me, all you that are weary  
all you that are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

We have gathered in this place to worship,  
**because Jesus invites us to come!**

We come as we are,  
with our faith and our doubts,  
with our successes and our failures  
**because Jesus invites us to come!**

We come with what we have,  
bringing with us all of this past week,  
**because Jesus invites us to come!**

## Song of Praise *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

*Songs of Zion #6*

*[see next page]*

## 6

## Easter People, Raise Your Voices

William M. James, 1915-

REGENT SQUARE  
Henry Smart, 1813-1879*Joyously*

1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, Sounds of heav'n in  
 2. Fear of death can no more stop us, From our press - ing  
 3. Ev - 'ry day to us is Eas - ter, With its Res - ur -

earth should ring. Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es  
 here be - low. For our Lord has now em - pow'ed us  
 rec - tion song. When in trou - ble move the fast - er

Heav'n - ly mu - sic, let it ring. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 To tri - umph o - ver ev - 'ry foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 To our God who rights the wrong. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! On to vic - t'ry now we go.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! See the pow'r of heav'n - ly throngs. A - men.

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Glorious God,  
you are all wisdom  
and a lamp to our feet,  
yet we fail to listen to you  
and neglect to follow your guidance.  
Forgive us, heal us,  
and lead us on,  
that we may walk in your ways  
and be happy in your refuge;  
in Jesus our Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

### **Song of Gratitude**

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” *Glory to God #582*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

## **Passing of the Peace**

# We Hear God's Word

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Reading

Romans 13:1-7

*New Revised Standard Version Update Edition*

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval, for it is God's agent for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the agent of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's agents, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

*New Revised Standard Version Update Edition*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

These words are trustworthy and true.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **A Time for Young People**

### **Song of Preparation**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me  
*[see next page]*

*Glory to God #775*

### **Proclamation of the Word**

Listen Up! Rev. Sheth LaRue

### **Moment of Meditation**

*We Respond to God's Word*

### **The Offertory**

### **Doxology + The Prayer of Dedication**

*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Christ all creatures here below  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

### **Joys + Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Song of Trust**

Amen *Glory to God #600*

### **Announcements**

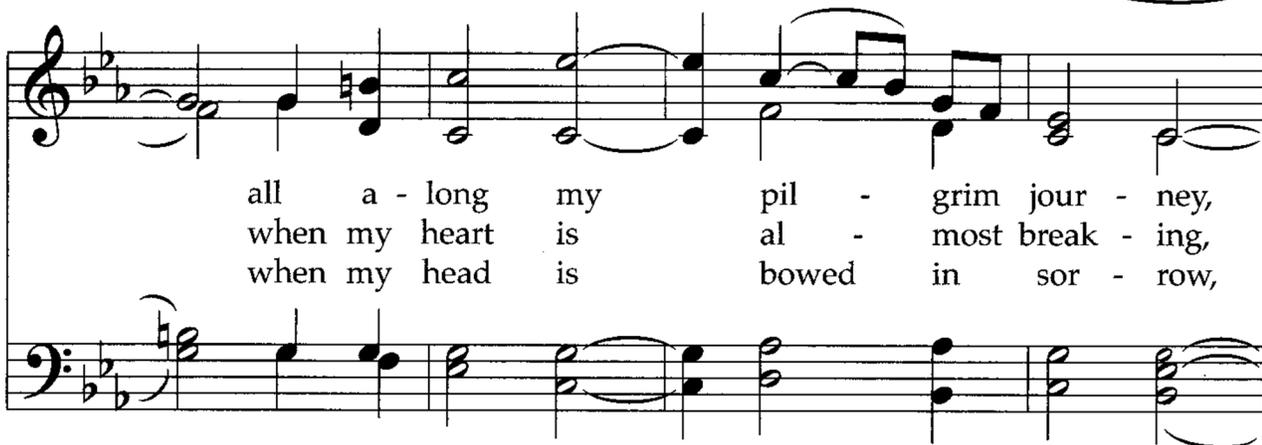
# I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 775



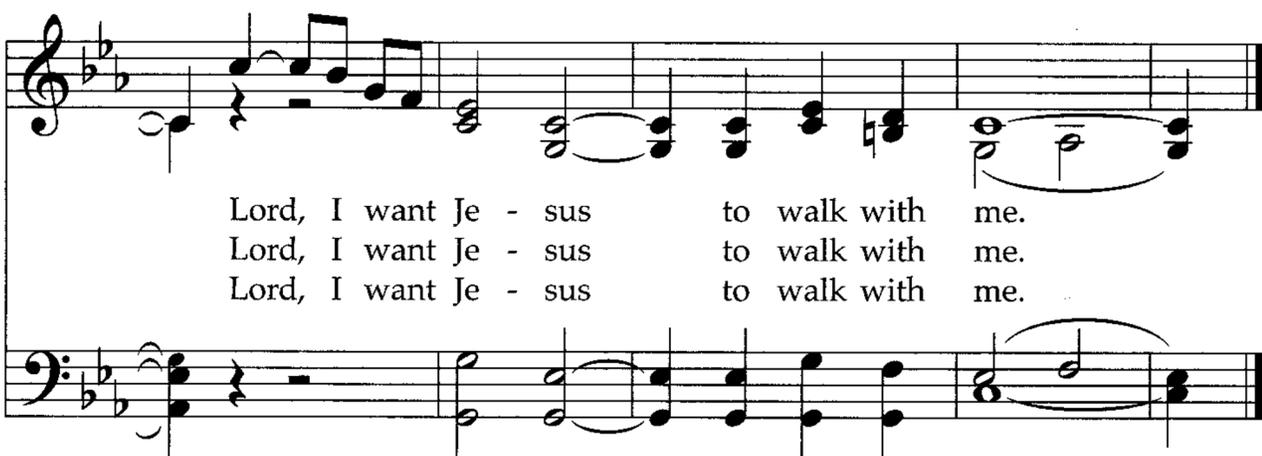
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

# We Are Sent by God

**Song of Sending** *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

We Are One in the Spirit      *Glory to God #300*

*[see next page]*

## Charge + Benediction

## Postlude

## Questions for Reflection

Moses had a mountaintop moment when he received the commandments. [Exodus 34]  
Elijah had a mountaintop moment as he feared for his life. [1 Kings 19] What happened to Moses during his experience? Does Elijah's story sound familiar? If you've read these stories, what's something new that you see? What do these two stories have in common with Jesus' experience? Have you ever had a mountaintop experience—maybe not *literally* on a mountaintop, but a meeting with God?

## Announcements

- **James by Percival Everett** is a 2024 novel that retells Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of the enslaved character, Jim, who is called James. The story follows James as he escapes to avoid being sold, meeting Huck Finn, who is also on the run, and their subsequent journey down the Mississippi River, but with James as the central, intelligent protagonist driving the narrative. Book Club will be discussing this book on February 17 at 1130 am. If you have any questions or need help obtaining the book, please contact Jan Ackerson or Pastor Sheth
- **The Annual Meeting of the Congregation** of First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor will take place on today—February 15, 2026—immediately following worship. The Annual Report will be distributed and discussed, including the 2025 Statistical Report; there will be a review of the 2026 Budget; a declaration of Elders and Officers and a meeting of the corporation. We highly encourage you to attend to this business of the church.

# We Are One in the Spirit

300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em)

(Bm)

(Em)

Fm

Cm

Fm



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;  
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;  
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am)

(Em)

B<sup>b</sup>m

Fm



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am)

(Em)

B<sup>b</sup>m

Fm



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

*Refrain*

(C)

(Em)

D<sup>b</sup>

Fm



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am)

(Em)

(Am)

(Bm)

(Em) (Am/E) (Em)

B<sup>b</sup>m

Fm

B<sup>b</sup>m

Cm

Fm B<sup>b</sup>m/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

- **Per Capita** is often called a tax or a membership fee – it’s neither! As a church in the PCUSA, our church is called upon (with others) to financially support the work and relationships within our denomination at the presbytery level, the synod level, and at the General Assembly level. The per-capita this year is \$42.42 per person. You may pay for more than one person if you feel so called. Please speak with John Kittredge if you need more information.
- **A Service of Lament and Hope** slated for this coming Saturday, February 21 at 4 pm has been postponed due to a conflict of schedules. Look for a new date in the coming weeks.
- **Soul Food Sunday**—February 22 following worship. Whip up your favorite soul food dish—enough to share with others—and join us for good food and great fellowship. If you can’t bring anything to the meal, that’s okay—there is always plenty of food to go around. Questions? Speak with Ellen Goff or Pastor Sheth

## *Coming Up*

Monday	February 16	Pastor’s Sabbath
Tuesday	February 17	Bible Study @ 10 am—The Gathering Space Pub Theology @ 730 pm—The Livery in Benton Harbor
Wednesday	February 18	Trustees @ 930 am Session @ 10 am
Thursday	February 12	Veteran’s Counseling—All Day—The Gathering Space Community Dinner @ 6 pm—Goff Hall
Sunday	February 15	Sunday Worship @ 10 am—The Sanctuary Soul Food Potluck @ 1130 am—Goff Hall