

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



The Good News is: Great Love for God and Neighbor

Matthew 25:34-40 + Luke 7:36-50

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

March 1, 2026 • Second Sunday in Lent

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship

Turn to your neighbor and tell them something good:

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell your other neighbor something good:

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell us all something good:

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

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

Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining *Glory to God #192*

[see next page]

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?

Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?

Or did we cross the street?

Did we avert our eyes?

Did we come up with every excuse in the book?

God, we long to be people who love our neighbors

with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.

But we must admit, we have a long way to go.

**Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear
get in the way of love.**

Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining Shine, Jesus, Shine

Capo 2: (G) (C) (G) (D) (G)
A D A E A

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our

(C) (G) (D) (C) (D)
D A E D E

midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from

(Bm7) (Em7) (C) (D) (Bm7)
C#m7 F#m7 D E C#m7

World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now
en - ter your bright-ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your

(Em7) (F) (Dsus)(D) (F) (Dsus)(D)
F#m7 G Esus E G Esus E

bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.

Refrain (G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)
A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (Am/G) (F) (D7sus)(D7)
 A E F#m D A Bm Bm/A G E7sus E7

Blaze, Spir - it, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am7) (C) (D7) (C) (D)
 A E F#m D A Bm7 D E7 D E

Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy.

(G) (D) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
 A E F#m D A Bm E7 A

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Faith family:

even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
God does not turn God's back on us.
So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen.

We are forgiven.

We are invited to try again.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

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

As Christ has forgiven us and received us into peace, let us now forgive one another and receive one another into our peace. There are many ways to share signs of peace with one another while minimizing physical contact: We can wave and smile; we can give the 'peace' sign; or we can bring our hands together in the center of our chests and bow slightly toward one another saying, "Peace be with you." Whichever way you choose to share, do so with respect and love for your neighbors! Let us share signs of peace.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:34-40

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

A Time for Young People

Young people of any age are invited to the chancel to hear a special message. Children are welcomed and encouraged to remain in worship following the message. They may remain at the prayerground at the front of the sanctuary or they may return to their adults. Children under 5 years old may go to the nursery with our childcare provider.

Song of Preparation

O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art) *Glory to God #625*

[see next page]

Scripture Reading

Luke 7:36-50

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my

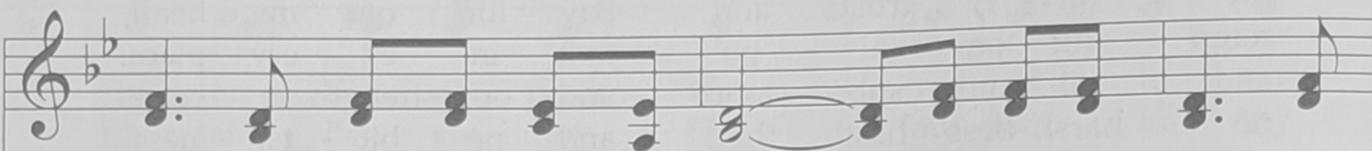
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O Lord My God

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me



all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in



hear the *roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the
 loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and
 bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to
 hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My



*Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow"

Refrain

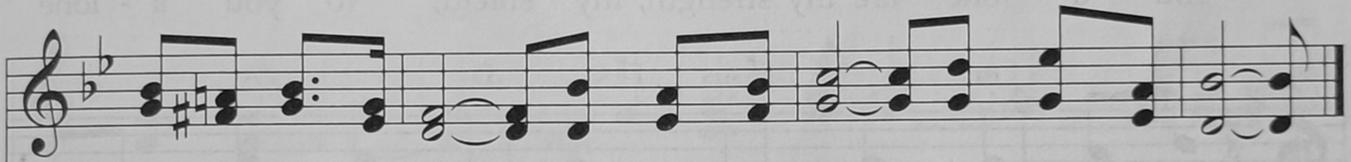


u - ni - verse dis - played:
feel the gen - tle breeze:
take a - way my sin:
God, how great thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my



Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!



feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” But he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

These words are trustworthy and true.

Thanks be to God!

Proclamation of the Word

The Good News is: Great Love for God and Neighbor

Rev. Sheth LaRue

Moment of Meditation

What good news did I hear God say to me and to this community this morning?

We Respond to God's Word

The Offertory

As those who have been claimed and set free by Christ's grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods. The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor. Offerings may be placed into any one of the plates in the sanctuary. At this time children may use one of the baskets found on the front pew to collect quarters for our quarter tube offerings, collected for specific missions and ministries of this church.

Quarters Donations Recipient: Berrien Immigrant Solidarity Network

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 Invitation to the Table

The opportunity to eat and drink at this table is not a right bestowed on the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who choose to come to the table are free to eat and drink, regardless of their age or understanding. All we ask is that you prepare yourself to celebrate by trusting in Christ, even with doubt. Come and be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

Song of Communion

We Are Standing On Holy Ground

Glory to God #406

[see next page]

406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

Holy Ground

G D A D G D Em
 We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
 D G F#m F#m7 B7
 and I know that there are an - gels all a -
 E Gm D A7 D G
 round; let us praise Je - sus
 D Em F#m7 G D G
 now; we are stand - ing in his
 D Em7 D G D
 pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

The Sacrament of Communion

Blessed are you who hunger for justice, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who thirst for righteousness, for you will drink deeply of the cup of joy.

Blessed are you who yearn for reconciliation, for you will find peace.

Blessed are you who are persecuted in the name of religion,
for yours are the glories of the heavens.

Blessed are we – for Christ calls us to his table
where there is room for everyone, and plenty for all.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

We Are Sent by God

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

Why Should I Feel Discouraged? *Glory to God #661*

[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

661 Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? Why should the shad-ows come?
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
 and rest-ing on his good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
 when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,

when Je-sus is my por-tion? My con-stant friend is he:
 though by the path he lead-eth but one step I may see:
 I draw the clos-er to him; from care he sets me free:

his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me;

his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Refrain

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)

THANKSGIVING

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Thanksgiving'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: C7, F, Fm, C, G7, and C. The lyrics are: 'for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.' The music is written in a key with one flat (F major or D minor) and a common time signature.

C7 F Fm C G7 C

for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Prayer for the Week

Lord, give us new strength so that we can build places of belonging:
to create a community for all to share their gifts,
to know that each of us is loved,
to help us see the light of Christ in all that we serve.
Let us remember that each of us is loved,
each of us is willed
and each of us is necessary.
May we balance mercy and justice
so that we can achieve equity and access for all of Your children.
We do this in the name of Christ, amen.

Coming Up

Tuesday

March 3

Bible Study @ 10 am
Pub Theology @ 730 pm

The Gathering Space
The Livery in Benton Harbor

Wednesday

March 4

Pastor's Silent Prayer Day

Thursday

March 5

Veteran's Counseling—All Day
Community Dinner @ 6 pm

The Gathering Space
Goff Hall

Sunday

March 8

Sunday Worship @ 10 am
Fellowship @ 1130 am

The Sanctuary
Goff Hall