

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



Jesus is the Way

Isaiah 55:6-9 + John 14:6

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

May 10, 2026 • Sixth Sunday of Easter

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer

“Another Way” by John van de Laar

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship

We gather to celebrate the God of wonder and majesty!

Awesome God, help us to worship you in spirit and truth.

We gather to celebrate Jesus Christ,
who was dead and buried, and now risen indeed!

He is risen indeed!

Jesus, renew our hope in your great power and love.

We gather to celebrate the Holy Spirit, our promised comforter and guide.

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with your presence and peace.

We gather to celebrate the ancient hope of Christians:

God is with us and will never let us go!

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

Light Dawns on a Weary World Glory to God #79

[see next page]

79 Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

This is a hymn whose tune came first. Upon hearing it, the author recalled the watered garden of Isaiah 58:11, which in turn led to Isaiah 55:12, paraphrased in the refrain. Then came the stanzas, organized around their first two words: Light dawns, Love grows, Hope blooms.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,
we do not always keep your commandments;
we fail to love you;
our conscience is not clear.**

moment of silent prayer

**Wash us in the water of life
that we may live again
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,
our resurrected Savior. 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

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:6-9 *The Message*

Seek God while he's here to be found, pray to him while he's close at hand.
Let the wicked abandon their way of life and the evil their way of thinking.
Let them come back to God, who is merciful,
come back to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness.

"I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work."
God's Decree.

"For as the sky soars high above earth,
so the way I work surpasses the way you work,
and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Just as rain and snow descend from the skies
and don't go back until they've watered the earth,
Doing their work of making things grow and blossom,
producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry,
So will the words that come out of my mouth
not come back empty-handed.

They'll do the work I sent them to do,
they'll complete the assignment I gave them.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading John 14:6 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

Jesus said to him [Thomas],
"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."

Holy wisdom, holy word

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

Seek Ye First *Glory to God #175*
[see next page]

Proclamation of the Word

Jesus is the Way Rev. Sheth LaRue

Affirmation of Faith

from the PCUSA's 'Study Catechism'

Question: How should I treat non-Christians and people of other religions?

**As much as I can,
I should meet friendship with friendship,
hostility with kindness,
generosity with gratitude,
persecution with forbearance,
truth with agreement,
and error with truth.
I should express my faith with humility and devotion
as the occasion requires,
whether silently or openly,
boldly or meekly,
by word or by deed.
I should avoid compromising the truth on the one hand
and being narrow-minded on the other.
In short, I should always welcome and accept these others
in a way that honors and reflects
the Lord's welcome and acceptance of me.**

Moment of Meditation

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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.

Quarter Donations Recipient: The OutCenter of Southwest Michigan

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

We Are Sent by God

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

Fairest Lord Jesus *Glory to God #630*

[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Announcements

- **The book club** will be reading *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver this month. We'd love to have you join us on May 19 at 11:30 for lunch and a great discussion. See Jan if you need help getting a copy of this book. From Amazon:
"The story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. [Kingsolver] has with infinitely steady hands worked the prickly threads of religion, politics, race, sin and redemption into a thing of terrible beauty."
- **After Worship Luncheon** will be on May 17...after worship. Join us for a potluck meal to share food and stories and updates on our lives. Please bring a covered dish to share—if you cannot bring food, please come and eat anyway!
- **Sunday School Townhall:** On May 24 following worship we will be holding a 'townhall' meeting in the Gathering Space to discuss plans and ideas for education opportunities in our congregation. Would you attend an online class mid-week? Would you love to get together for breakfast and prayer once a week? Do you have a desire to learn something or teach something to our congregation? We hope to see you there!
- **Cooking for Thursday Night Community Dinners:** If you'd like to help feed our neighbors and can cook big meals, please sign up to cook all (or part) of a meal for Thursday night dinners. We do have food and funds available if you need assistance in purchasing the food. Questions? Contact John Kittredge or Bob Ziebart

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Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!