

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



Wheat and Darnel

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 + Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

July 19, 2026 • 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.” John 1:5

We light the Christ Candle each week as a reminder that Christ – the One who shines brightly in the darkness – is ever-present with us, not only here in worship, but in our everyday life.

“...we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

We pour water into the font each week as a reminder of our own baptism – that moment when we connected with God’s creative purpose, cleansing power, and redemptive promise.

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of God
to encounter Love that sets free.

**We do not come seeking crumbs of justice
but a way of life that liberates.**

Together, we practice courage in resisting evil
and rejecting the temptations of complicity and complacency.

The Spirit leads us in power and truth.

Our faith is placed in Love Eternal that lifts broken spirits
and brings new life from places of ruin.

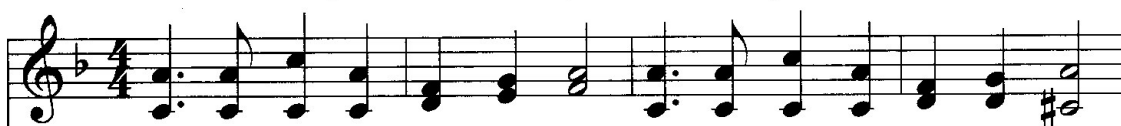
**With hope that is neither narrow nor fragile,
we come to follow Christ.**

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

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come *Glory to God #367*

[see next page]

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



- 1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Abba, Father,
where we are in bondage to sin, set us free;
restore us as your children
and joint heirs with Christ.
You are our hope.
Lead us in the way everlasting. 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

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

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

[Jesus] put before [the gathered crowd] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Then [Jesus] left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

In Christ There Is No East or West 65

McKEE

* Traditional

John Oxenham, 1852-1941

Adapt. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In
2. In Him shall true hearts ev - ery - where Their
3. Join hands, then, broth - ers of the faith, What -
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In

Him no south or north; But one great fel - low -
high com - mu - nion find; His ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be. Who serves my Fa - ther
Him meet south and north; All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord Close bind - ing all man - kind.
as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth. A - men.

* This tune came from a Negro Spiritual, "I Went to the Hillside, I Went to Pray."

Proclamation of the Word

Wheat and Darnel

Rev. Sheth LaRue

Moment of Meditation

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: Camp Greenwood

Doxology *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.

The Prayer of Dedication

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

- ⇒ **Book Club** will meet July 21 at 1115 am to discuss *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Café* by Fannie Flagg. August's read is *The Night Office—Thin Blue Smoke, Book 2* by Doug Worgul. If you need assistance in obtaining this book, speak with Jan or Pastor Sheth.
- ⇒ **Are you a chef?** We have plenty of slots available to cook all or part of Thursday Night Community Dinner. If you have any questions or instructions, or would like to sign up, speak with Bob Ziebart.

We Are Sent by God

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

O for a World

Glory to God #372

[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Prayer of the Week

Holy One, I awake into a sense of your presence with me.
From time to time today,
remind me that each day is a journey into the unknown
but that there is nowhere I can go
where you are not with me.
Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth. Amen.

O for a World

372

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the alto and bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding line of lyrics.

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re-spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re-lieved,
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out-casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON

CM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor

August 2nd - 10 am

Lion's Beach Park Pavilion

Worship, Communion, with
Potluck to follow



**WORSHIP AT
THE BEACH**



Where can I park?

There is paid parking available at a rate of \$3.00/hour or \$10.00/day. The nearest free parking may be found at the 'Elderberry' lots at Lake Blvd and Elm St.—this is a 15 minute, 1/2 mile walk to the pavilion. Any City of St. Joseph resident or property owner can obtain a parking waiver which allows free parking in any City-owned parks (Tiscornia Beach, Lions Park, Elm Street lot and Kiwanis Park) and downtown. **The pavilion is accessible for walkers and wheelchairs and the restroom is nearby.**

What should I bring?

The church will provide: hot dogs, buns, condiments, napkins, and water. If you're planning on attending the potluck, **please bring a side to share as well as your own dishes, cups, and utensils.** There will be picnic tables to sit at but you may bring your favorite chair. Please bring your own plate, utensils, and cup/glass for the potluck.

What should I expect?

This is a regular Service for the Lord's Day - the rhythms of worship will not change though the location will. We will have bulletins with the music from our hymnals included. We will share in the Eucharist. We will give to God what God has given to us. Expect the service to last about 1.5 hours.

What about the potluck?

The potluck is open to everyone, regardless of whether or not you brought something to share. We trust and believe that God will feed all who are hungry, with leftovers to boot. If you do bring a side to share, please label all potential allergens (nuts, eggs, dairy, etc.).

What if the weather's bad?

If the weather is questionable that morning, a decision to meet at the park or at church will be made by 8 am and notifications will go out by email, text, and phone calls.