

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Benton Harbor



All Means All

Psalm 46 + Psalm 145:1-3, 10-21

Matthew 11:25-30 + Galatians 3:28

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

July 5, 2026 • 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer Psalm 46 *Contemporary English Version*

God is our mighty fortress,
always ready to help in times of trouble.
And so, we won't be afraid!
Let the earth tremble
and the mountains tumble into the deepest sea.
Let the ocean roar and foam,
and its raging waves shake the mountains.

A river and its streams bring joy to the city,
which is the sacred home of God Most High.
God is in that city, and it won't be shaken.
He will help it at dawn.

Nations rage! Kingdoms fall!
But at the voice of God the earth itself melts.
The Lord All-Powerful is with us.
The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come! See the fearsome things
the Lord has done on earth.
God brings wars to an end all over the world.
He breaks the arrows,
shatters the spears, and burns the shields.
Our God says, "Calm down, and learn that I am God!
All nations on earth will honor me."

The Lord All-Powerful is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress.

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 every day 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

Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers and disciples of love,

**God is close to the outcast
and faithful to all**

Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the winds of hope,

**God is everywhere at all times,
compassionate to all.**

Calling all travelers between worlds, who translate compassion into peace,

God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the forgotten.

Come to worship and be renewed for this long journey.

**Strangers in a strange land,
we have come to worship the creator of all**

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

Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome) *Glory to God #301*

[see next page]

Call to Confession

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.

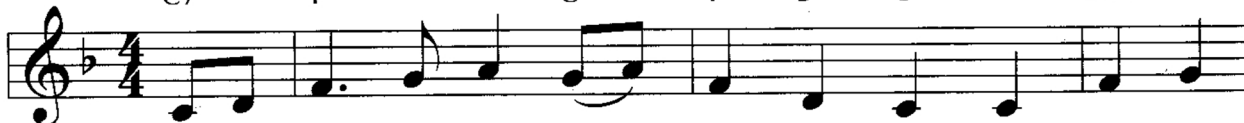
What we do know is this:

**when Christ is revealed,
we will be like him,
for we will see him as he is.**

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

See Next Page!

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B \flat A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B \flat F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious One, where do we begin? You call us to do justice,
and we explain that justice is complicated.

You ask us to love mercy,
and we counter: a show of strength is necessary.

You invite us to walk humbly with you,
**yet we struggle to recognize you
 in our neighbors, in the dispossessed,
 in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts.**

We confess we have failed
 to summon the courage and compassion required by your call.
**We have treated hospitality as an option,
 and welcome as a choice,
 instead of as the center of our life together.**

We have claimed your name, yet rejected your way.
Forgive us, we pray.

[moment for silent confession]

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 Psalm 145:1-3, 10-21

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to **all**,
and his compassion is over **all** that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and **all** your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to **all** people your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in **all** his words
and gracious in **all** his deeds.
The Lord upholds **all** who are falling
and raises up **all** who are bowed down.
The eyes of **all** look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is just in **all** his ways
and kind in **all** his doings.
The Lord is near to **all** who call on him,
to **all** who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of **all** who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
The Lord watches over **all** who love him,
but **all** the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

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.

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:25-30 *The Message*

Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: “Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You’ve concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that’s the way you like to work.”

Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. “The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I’m not keeping it to myself; I’m ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

These words are trustworthy and true.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading Galatians 3:28 *EasyEnglish Bible*

It does not matter whether you are a Jew or a Gentile. It does not matter whether you are a slave or a free person. It does not matter whether you are a man or a woman. You all belong together because you all belong to Christ Jesus.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Song of Preparation

This is My Song *Glory to God #340*

[see next page]

Proclamation of the Word

All Means All Rev. Sheth LaRue

Song of Prayerful Response

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies *Glory to God #338*

[see next next page]

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

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

Gracious One,

in your mercy, hear our prayers.

The Invitation to the Table

340

This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

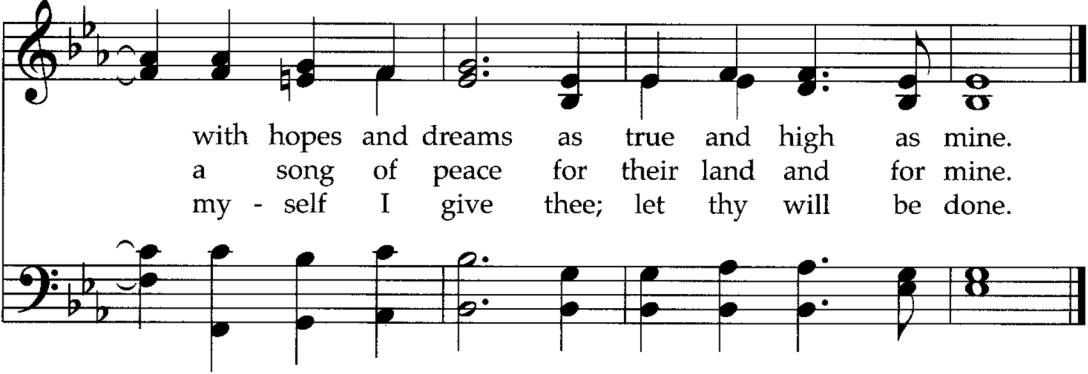
Cont'd next page

This is My Song cont'd

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 338

1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
 3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!
 thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine

and crown thy good with *broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!
 till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

*Or "servanthood"

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

Song of Communion

For Everyone Born

Glory to God #769

[see next page]

The Sacrament of Communion

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

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

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

Blessed are you who are persecuted in the name of religion.
Ours 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.

And so we cry, Mercy: **Mercy!**
And so we cry, Glory: **Glory!**
And so we cry, Blessing: **Blessing!**

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit. Enliven this bread, awaken this body, pour us out for each other. Transfigure our minds, ignite your church, nourish the life of the earth. Make us, while many, united, make us, though broken, whole, make us, despite death, alive.

769

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Cont'd next page

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain

B *All* E E/G# A2 Bsus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

E E/G# A2 Bsus B

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

Bsus B (E) *Fine* A2 E Bsus B

jus-tice and joy!

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three, our Life, our Mercy, our Might, our Table, our Food, our Server, our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove, our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine, our Light, our Treasure, our Tree, our Way, our Truth, our Life.

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Praise now, praise tomorrow, praise forever.

And so we cry, Amen.

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*

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" *Glory to God #339*

[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

What misplaced burdens are you carrying? Where might God be offering you a more well-fitted yoke? Where are your expectations of God and the church unmet? Where do you sense God moving in hidden ways?

339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.