

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Benton Harbor*



WOW.

2 Kings 4:1-7 + Matthew 28:1-9

October 25, 2026 • 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

# *We Are Welcomed*

## **Welcome**

### **Opening Prayer**

“A Hardware Store as Proof of the Existence of God”

by Nancy Willard

### **Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship**

# *We Are Gathered*

### **The Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord, for God is good.

**God's love never fails.**

Praise the God of all gods.

**God's love never fails.**

Praise the Lord of lords.

**God's love never fails.**

God saw the trouble we were in.

**God's love never fails.**

God rescued us from our enemies.

**God's love never fails.**

God gives food to all who live.

**God's love never fails.**

Praise God in heaven.

**God's love never fails.**

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

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

*[see next page]*

625

## 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: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to  
 take a - way my sin:  
 God, how great thou art!"

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!

**Call to Confession****Prayer of Confession**

Creator God, you set the cosmos into motion,  
 spinning the earth at 1000 miles an hour  
 as it orbits the Sun at 67,000 miles an hour  
 as it sweeps around the Milky Way galaxy  
 at 514,000 miles an hour  
 as it barrels through the universe at 1.3 million miles an hour.  
 For the times we journey through the universe without saying *Wow!*  
**Awesome God, forgive us.**

For the times we forget that everything is just atoms,  
just tiny, microscopic molecules all held together by your voice.  
For the times we forget that the heart of a blue whale  
is about five feet tall and wide  
and pumps 58 gallons of blood with each beat of the heart.

**Amazing God, forgive us.**

Our eyes are blinded to being knocked off our feet by your works.  
Our minds are distracted  
from being bowled over by your creation.  
Our hearts are hardened  
to being tickled pink by your imagination.  
Our lives are too busy to be awed by this present moment –  
right here, right now.

**Amazing God, forgive us.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

The Psalmist writes: the Lord forgives our sins,  
heals us when we are sick and protects us from death.  
The Lord is merciful, kind, and patient  
with an unfailing, everlasting love.  
How great is God's love for all who worship?

**Greater than the distance between heaven and earth.**

How far has the Lord taken our sins from us?

**Farther than the distance from east to west!**

**The Lord's kindness and love are a crown on our heads.**

All of God's creation, and all God rules,  
come and praise your Lord!

**With all my heart, I praise the Lord.**

### **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

## 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      2 Kings 4:1-7      Contemporary English Version

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured *it* out. Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "*There is* not another vessel." So the oil ceased. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you *and* your sons live on the rest."

Wow!

**Wow! Thanks be to God!**

## **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 28:1-9 *Contemporary English Version*

The Sabbath was over, and it was almost daybreak on Sunday when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly a strong earthquake struck, and the Lord's angel came down from heaven. He rolled away the stone and sat on it. The angel looked as bright as lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards shook from fear and fell down, as though they were dead.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would. Come, see the place where his body was lying. Now hurry! Tell his disciples he has been raised to life and is on his way to Galilee. Go there, and you will see him. This is what I came to tell you."

The women were frightened and yet very happy, as they hurried from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and greeted them. They went near him, held on to his feet, and worshiped him.

For the Holy Word written and read, proclaimed and lived:

**Wow! Thanks be to God!**

## **Song of Preparation**

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above! *Glory to God #41*

*[see next page]*

## **Proclamation of the Word**

WOW.

Rev. Sheth LaRue

## **Moment of Meditation**

*We Respond to God's Word*

**Stewardship + Why Does FPC Benton Harbor Matter to Me?** Jackie Baker

## **The Offertory**

**Quarter Donations Recipient:  
Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan**

**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.**

# 41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!  
 2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,  
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love:  
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,  
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old;  
 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form;  
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 it streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain,  
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

Addressing the first two stanzas to the singers of the hymn and the last three to God, this free paraphrase of Psalm 104 recasts the psalmist's imagery with baroque verve. Though it was first published in England, the tune has been more popular in North America than there.

## **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**

*We Are Sent by God*

### **Song of Sending**

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

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

*Songs of Zion #121*

*[see next page]*

### **Charge + Benediction**

### **Postlude**

### **Questions for Reflection**

Chapter three of Anne Lamott's *Help, Thanks, Wow* explores "Wow," the prayer of awe, wonder, and being stopped by the universe. This type of wonder can arise from both profound beauty and staggering tragedy, temporarily halting our daily preoccupations and reducing self-absorption. To explore these themes, consider how often you let attention interrupt your routine to notice the ordinary with fresh eyes, how you navigate the unsettling moments of awe when tidy explanations fail, and how experiencing this smallness shifts your perspective on personal worries.

# Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

121

Traditional

Traditional

*Fast Refrain* *Fine*

Ev-ry time I feel the Spir-it mov-ing in my heart, I will pray.

*Solo or Unison*

Cm

Bb7

Eb D.C.

1. Up-on the moun-tain my Lord spoke, Out His mouth came fire and smoke.  
All a-round me looks so shine, Ask my Lord if all was mine.

2. Jor-dan Riv-er is chil-ly and cold, Chills the bod-y but not the soul.  
Ain't but one train on dis track, Runs to heav-en and right back.