

First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, October 18, 2026

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Martin Shaw

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Minute for Mission

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, listen: the Lord has done marvelous things.

People: Let us share our faith in God, that we may live in hope and abide in peace.

*HYMN #63

The Lord is God

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen. *[silent confession]*

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: God's forgiveness gives us joy, and our joy increase when it is shared. Friends, the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

(Please greet your neighbors in the ways you are comfortable.)

*RESPONSE #587

Alleluia!

WE HEAR THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-13

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-15

SERMON

Whom Will You Serve?

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith, 1987)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

Glory Be to the Father

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

God of Mercy, Truth, and Beauty

Robert J. Powell

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

WE FOLLOW THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***SENDING HYMN #65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Paul Manz

Participating in this morning's service are Rev. Tom James; Liturgist, Charlie Aronson; Organist and Music Director, Dr. David Stultz; The Sanctuary Choir

Calendar

Sunday, October 18

9:15 a.m. Music Practice

9:45 a.m. Nursery

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

11:30 a.m. Reformed Spirituality
Class-S.P

6:30 p.m. Lectio Group

Tuesday, October 20

6:30 p.m. Session Mtg.

Wednesday, October 21

10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Treasure Chest

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, October 22

10:00 a.m. PW Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Deacon's Mtg.

Sunday, October 25

9:15 a.m. Music Practice

9:45 a.m. Nursery

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

Reformed Spirituality and the Natural World: Talks on Desire

A key question in Christian spirituality is, "What do we do with our desire?" The question is very practical in nature, and yet it opens out to broad theological questions about human nature in its created goodness and in its sinful distortions. The Reformed tradition has been known to take a dim view of desire, and yet a careful reading of some of the key theologians in the tradition suggests that, although desire is a problem, it is also the solution. In these talks, we consider the ways John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, and the English-speaking Puritan tradition understood the natural world as a kind of invitation to a transformed relationship with our natural desires. In nature, we see a marvelous and often severe beauty, and we are invited beyond our customary obsessions and preoccupations toward a wider appreciation of God's glory. We will meet in the South Parlor, or for a ZOOM link, contact Tami in the church office.

September 20th—October 18th following worship

(Class will not meet on October 11th)

SAVE THE DATE

FPCD is once again sponsoring a meal packing event for the Kids Coalition Against Hunger. Please plan on helping us pack nutritious food packets on Saturday, November 21st at noon. Spread the word and bring

friends!



The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn

600 N. Brady Road, Dearborn MI 48124
(313) 274-1313, info@firstpresdearborn.org

Come Home to God's Love

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Tom James, *Pastor*

Dr. David Stultz, DMA, *Organist & Music Director*

Tamera Metiva, *Office Administrator*

Rachel Woods, *Business Administrator*

Kristin Parden, *Custodian*