FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 12, 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Mount Clemens invites you to "Come as a guest, leave as family."

168 Cass Avenue · Mount Clemens, MI 48043

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May 12, 2024 Seventh Sunday of Easter

GATHERING AT THE GATE

PRELUDE "Blessings" Laura Story

WELCOME Bruce Focht

*SONG "Rise Up in Us" (Choir First, then Congregation)
Rise up in us and we will rise. From death into a newfound life:
From bondage freed, from harm released,
From illness healed, as one in peace.
When all is lost our hearts are warmed,
Our hope restored, our lives transformed.
Alleluia, alleluia!

*THE KEY TO PEACE

Leader: Know that Christ companions us along this journey. Because of this, we can be honest about our lives, our struggles, and the things that keep us locked up. This is the key to peace: as soon as truth is spoken and the desire for freedom is known, Divine Love begins the process of resurrecting your life. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you

*SONG "Faith of Our Mothers" Insert

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jeanette Armstrong

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Based on Luke 13-32)

Leader: They were on the road to Emmaus...

Men: We travel so many roads, so many journeys in this life, sometimes traveling towards, sometimes away from, a life of freedom.

Leader: Jesus came and fell into step with them, but they did not recognize him...

Women: We are sometimes so overwhelmed with the struggles of this world that we can't see the Companion that walks alongside us.

Leader: Jesus asked them what they were talking about...

Men: We have recited our stories of pain so often that we can't imagine there are other ways to interpret events, to get past the regret.

Leader: They explained the horror of the recent past, about their friend who was crucified and their disappointment at dreams of liberation dashed...

Women: We so often think we've hit the end of the road, the finale of the story, with nothing left to say.

Leader: Then Jesus began to tell the story as a bigger picture...

Men: We sometimes perceive only the parts that feel insurmountable without zooming out to notice the larger narrative of hope.

Leader: They invited Jesus to dinner after such a long walk...

Women: We actually know how to reach for help, even when we don't realize we need it.

Leader: Jesus took the bread, blessed, broke and gave it to them...

Men: We are capable of having our eyes opened to the presence of Love in our midst.

Leader: Jesus vanished from the room as quickly as he had appeared on the road but they were left with the awe and wonder of having their hearts transformed...

All: We open to the possibility that nothing is closed, that our hearts can be opened anytime, anywhere, and resurrection from death-dealing forces is possible.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Kathy Nealand

Pastor: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

All: Thanks be to the Living Word.

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE "Halle, Halle, Halleluia" (STF 2026)
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah, Hallelujah! (repeat)

ROCLAIMING RELEASE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Scripture Lessons Acts 16:16-34 pg. 136

SERMON "Freed" Rev. Kathy Nealand

RESPONDING TO RELEASE



THE GIVING OF OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURE

OFFERING MUSIC

"Mother, I Love You" Lorin F. Wheelwright

*OFFERING RESPONSE

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

UNLOCKING RELEASE 🎢

*CLOSING SONG

"For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free"

Insert

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Traditional

BOLD TEXT – All participate

* - Stand if you are able

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