

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 23, 2025



First Presbyterian Church of Mount Clemens invites you to

“Come as a guest, leave as family.”

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BOLD TEXT – All participate

* - Stand if you are able

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November 23, 2025

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larry Huntington

PRELUDE

***SONG**

“Fly”

**In our dreams we can fly and we soar
and our feet touch the sky
and it seems we can go anywhere if we try
and the world’s not so dark
when the clouds make it white
If there’s no hope tell us why
in our dreams we can fly**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The world needs to change. And we are the changemakers! This work of changemaking is going to take a while.

All: We are called to be changemakers for our whole lives!

Leader: And this work is going to take all of us. If we want to keep change going, we need to be inviting others, joining with others, witnessing to others, and empowering others to do this work with us. For many of us, this is the hardest part of making change,

All but we are ready to be bold.

Leader: We come to worship this morning, eager to be part of this movement and to bring others along in our work. We come to worship this morning, trusting that God will empower us. We are the changemakers, and we are ready!

All: Thanks be to God!

CHOIR ANTHEM

“O Give Thanks”

Joseph M Martin

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Peace be with you! **People: And also with you.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

***SONG**

“Power of Your Love”

Insert

CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, you have shown us how to empower other people through the life of Jesus Christ, and yet, we insist on doing this changemaking work alone. We say that's because no one else came to do the work, but did we bother to invite them? No, we didn't. Maybe we were too afraid to ask. Maybe we were afraid they would say, 'No.' We don't like the feeling of rejection. Or maybe we wanted things done our way, and we didn't want someone else to mess it up. We do like the feeling of control. But in all of this, we forget that the work of changemaking is not about us. It is God's work. It is important work that must continue beyond us, and after us. Forgive us. Forgive us for making your work small. Forgive us for our weakness and timidity. Send us your spirit again, and free us from our fear and complacency. Embolden us. Make us unafraid of change, and undeterred in our work of changemaking. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***GRATEFUL RESPONSE**

"We Are Forgiven"

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Holy One, help us to hear what you are doing in the Gospel. Help us to hear the ways that you are empowering us, and in this story, help us to learn how to empower others. In every way, make us more like Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Mark 10:46-52

John 6:1-14

SERMON

"A Story of Empowerment"

Rev. Kathy Nealand

THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

***OFFERING RESPONSE**

(tune of *Blessed Assurance*)

Let us be makers, makers of change,
compassion and courage for each new exchange.
As we discern, God, our offerings now,
gift us and bless us, show us just how.

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

SENDING

***SONG**

"We All Are One in Mission"

#435

CHANGEMAKER BLESSING (In unison)

Blessed are the changemakers.

Blessed are you who are not asleep to the world's pain and suffering.

Blessed are you who lament for the way things are.

Blessed are you who know, to the depth of your bones,
that this is not how things are meant to be.

Blessed are you for not believing the lie that
this is how they will always remain.

Blessed are you who know that things can change,
who long for things to change.

Blessed are you whose life's ambition is to bring the change
that is justice and mercy for all.

Blessed are you who know that God has always employed the faithful
acts of ordinary people to heal and change this world.

Blessed are you who know that change begins today, change begins
with us, and that we are blessed to be the changemakers.

Let the people say... Amen!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE