

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Homecoming ~ September 8, 2024



+ Prayer of Invocation

Reading in Unison
Paula Ellison, liturgist

Bless this moment, most loving God, may this coming home be a recreation and experience of hospitality and hope. May all who enter this home, may all who walk through these doors know and feel your love and presence.

For no one is a stranger, all are beloved guests; we are cherished by you and each other for all that we are: who we love, our heritage, our gender, our work, our gifts – all gifts from you, all beloved and honored by you.

May the life celebrated in each room in this house give delight and honor and reverence to you. Amen.

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 301

All Are Welcome (Let us Build a House)

Tune: TWO OAKS

Smith-Dively Ringers, Kurt Stroh director

Scripture Reading

Mark 2:1-12

Paula Ellison, liturgist

When Jesus returned to the city of Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to Jesus a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority

on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise up, take your mat, and go to your home.”

And the person rose from his mat, rolled it up, and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

One: The Word of God for the People of God...

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The Choral Scholars

Fill Me, Lord!

music by Brad Nix; text by Joseph Graham

*Fill me, Lord, o come and heal me, Lord.
O come and seal my life with Your Holy Spirit.
Take me, Lord, O come and wake me, Lord.
O come and make me, Lord, into a song of love.*

*Holy Spirit, use my life. Come and take control.
O come and burn in me a golden light.
Cleanse and make me whole.*

*I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing,
And obey the spirit of the Lord
I'm gonna pray when the Spirit says pray,
I'm gonna shout when the spirit says shout,
And obey the spirit of the Lord*

*Fill me, Lord, o come and heal me, Lord.
O come and seal my life with Your Holy Spirit.
Take me, Lord, O come and wake me, Lord.
O come and make me, Lord, into a song of love.*

Sermon

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

Brass Quintet-in-Residence

Be Still My Soul

arr. by Gordon Schuster

Prayers of the People and Our Saviors Prayer

concluding, the congregation prays in unison:

**...Our Father/Mother/God, 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 debts as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

The Chancel Choir
The Majesty and Glory of Your Name
Linda Lee Johnson / Tom Fettke

*When I gaze into the night skies
and see the work of your fingers;
The moon and stars suspended in space.*

*Oh, what are we that you are mindful of us?
You have given us a crown of glory and honor,
And have made us a little lower than the angels.
You have put us in charge of all creation:
The beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
The fish of the sea.
Oh, what are we that you are mindful of us?*

*O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God; little children praise You perfectly,
And so would we.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!
The majesty and glory of Your name.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

+ Doxology - No. 609

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

+ Prayer of Dedication

Reading in Unison

Loving and gracious God,
I have given gold,
but there is only so much gold.
I have given blood,
but I have only so much blood to give.
I have given my time,
but days have only so many hours.
I have given my strength,
but even that has its limits.

So I give my love.
Because love is gold, and love is blood.
And love is time, and love is strength.
But love is also so much more.
Because love is God.
And God is love.
And only you, God, have no limits. Amen.

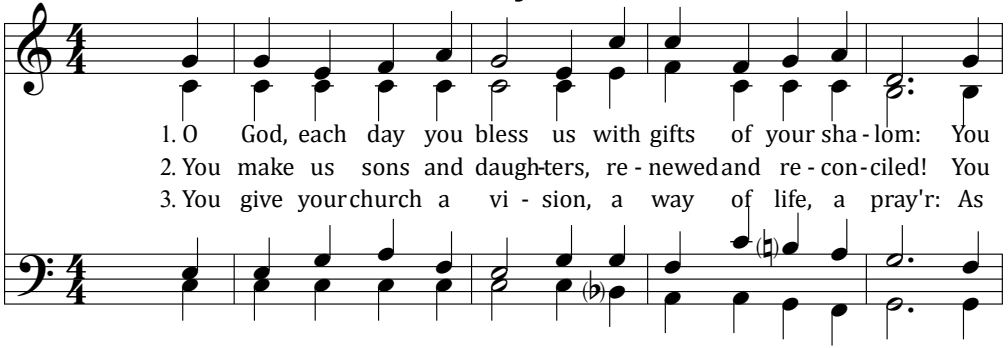
+ Hymn - see next page

O God, Each Day You Bless Us

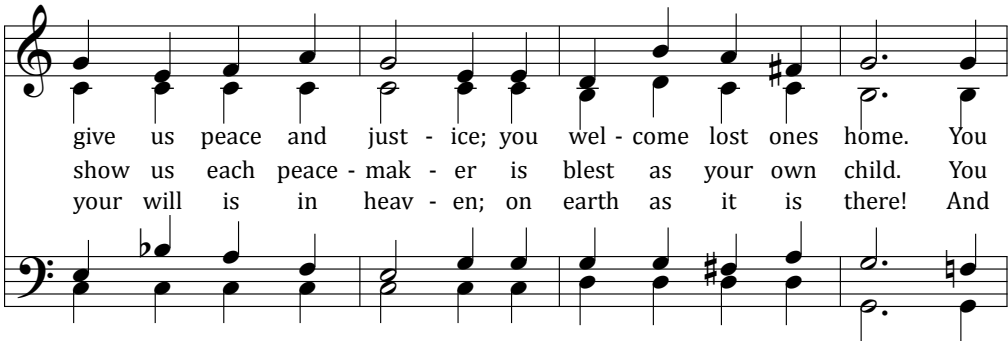
Tune: LANCASHIRE

arr. by Mark Schweizer; text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

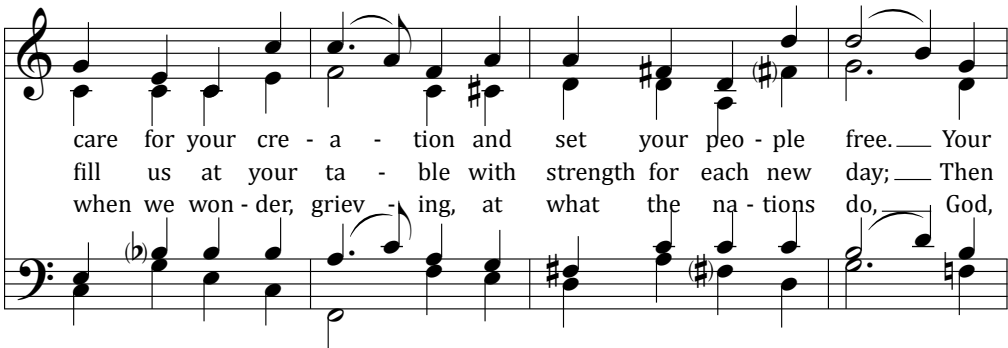
O God, Each Day You Bless Us



1. O God, each day you bless us with gifts of your sha-lom: You
2. You make us sons and daughters, re-newed and re-con-ciled! You
3. You give your church a vi-sion, a way of life, a pray'r: As



give us peace and just-ice; you wel-come lost ones home. You
show us each peace-mak-er is blest as your own child. You
your will is in heav-en; on earth as it is there! And



care for your cre-a-tion and set your peo-ple free.— Your
fill us at your ta-ble with strength for each new day;— Then
when we won-der, griev-ing, at what the na-tions do, God,



lov-ing arms em-brace us and build com-mun-i-ty.
Spi-rit-filled we're a-ble to live your peace-ful way.
may we work, be-liev-ing there's joy in serv-ing you.

Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage; holding fast to that which is good; rendering to no one evil for evil; strengthening the faint hearted; supporting the weak; helping the afflicted; honoring all people; loving and serving the Lord and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Recessional

Brass Quintet-in-Residence
Steven B. Smith, organ
Festival Postlude on "Old Hundredth"
Bruce Stevenson

Instrumentalists:

Charley Lea, trumpet
Thomas Hubel, trumpet
Erich Peterson, horn
Daniel Mattson, trombone
Bob Ward, bass trombone
Jack Latta, percussion and timpani

Thank You to the Caregivers, Teachers, and Mentors of Park Church

We are lucky to have many trained, curious, and energetic people who are invested in the spiritual lives of our young people and we are taking the opportunity in the service today to share with them a special blessing for the year ahead. Keep them in your prayers and share your support with them for the work they do.

Peter Smith, Kasey Lee, Sherrie Peterson, Jan Edwards, Matthew Lester, Bobbie Firman, Lori Riegling, Katy Urquhart, Alicia Johnson, Tim Johnson, Donna Boersma, Sue West, Paula Ellison, Megan Cottrell, Natalie Tomlin, Mary Hoksbergen, Liz Winter, Megan Riksen, Kristen Bosyfil, Cheryl Wells, Heidi Hertel, and Vonda Mohrmann.

If you feel called to serve the Park Church youth in this way, there are few openings in the schedule. Please contact Peter Smith to find out more! psmith@parkchurchgr.org

Thank you for joining us this morning!

We'd like to know that you were here, answer any questions you have, and support you in prayer. Please fill out the information card and place it in the offering plate.

Following Worship:

Homecoming Celebration Picnic: Pick up your lunches in Spindler Dining Room and join us in the tent where you can enjoy your meals, listen to some great music, and pick up the LMNO...Park quiz! Test your knowledge; win a fabulous prize!

P.O.P. Table: Pick up the new directory! While the directory will help with names and faces, nothing beats wearing a name tag! Meet Charlie Laage our residence name tag technician! He can replace missing or damaged name tags and, if you are new, he can make you one of your very own! No membership required!

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including: Ron Bickel, John Duiven, Judy Furman, Liz Taylor, and Mike VanDuinen.

Remember our young people away at college including: Luke Barnum, Laura DeBoer, Mallory Hagemann, Lily Kugler, and Jack O'Malley.

Remember those serving in the military including: Jesse Campbell, Devon Goetz, Andy MacGregor, and Matthew Quick.

Pastoral care is always available. Contact Pastor Darryl at dkistler@parkchurchgr.org.

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In honor of Michelle Hodde's birthday

Given by Bruce and Doris Robey.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

In honor of our granddaughter Natalie Burke's 11th birthday

Given by David and Donna Boersma.

If you would like to dedicate Sanctuary flowers, email Marcia Streeter. mabiti1@gmail.com

**Confirmation Lunch & Learn: Sunday
September 15 following worship in Merriam Hall.**

All 6th–12th grade youth and their families are invited to join Pastor Darryl and Peter to hear more about the confirmation journey. Confirmation is evolving at Park Church making it more spiritually engaging and integrated into the youth group experience. Please RSVP to Pastor Darryl (dkistler@parkchurchgr.org) by **Wed., Sept. 11**.

**Beyond Religion Book Study
Sundays, September 15 - October 20
9:00am in Martenson Parlor**

Hosted by Dr. Craig Vander Maas and Rev. Dick Sherlock, this series of discussions will focus Dr. Vander Maas' book *Beyond Religion: Finding Meaning in Evolution*, which explores spirituality and religion from the perspective of a psychologist focused on empirical evidence and reason.

**Fall Bible Study: Gospel of Matthew
Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm
Sept. 18 - Dec. 11
in Spindler Dining Room with an online option using Zoom**

Join Pastor Darryl and your Park friends for an engaging study of the Gospel of Matthew. Why is Matthew the first gospel in the New Testament? What does Jesus exactly say in his “Sermon on the Mount”? Why are there zombies present at the Crucifixion? We’ll look at these questions and more every Wednesday night **starting September 18**. The Zoom link is found in the Congregationalist or by calling the office.

**Men’s Discussion Group
Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:30am
Sept. 19 - Dec. 12
in Spindler Dining Room**

Led by Pastor Darryl, this group gathers to build community, foster friendships, support one another, and chew on timely topics that matter to our lives. The group meets in person each Thursday morning from 8:30-9:30am **starting September 19**.

ArtPrize 2024 @ Park Church
September 13-28 hours vary

Plan now to enjoy paintings, photos, sculptures, quilts, and more during ArtPrize 2024, September 13 through 28 – right here at Park. This year, Merriam Hall (and a parking space or two) will fill with works of art carefully chosen for your enjoyment. We need several people each day to help welcome guests. The volunteer sign up form is available at the P.O.P Table after worship, online at the link in the Congregationalist, or just call the office and we will help you sign up.

New Member Orientation Class
Sunday, October 6 at 11:45

A new member orientation class will be held Sunday, October 6, from 11:45 AM until 1:30 PM for all who may be interested in membership with Park Church. You will have an opportunity to meet members of the church staff and representatives from the Board of Trustees and Board of Deacons. You will learn about Park's history and our many programs and opportunities to serve, not only within the church but also in the wider community. Light finger foods and refreshments will be provided; vegetarian options available. New members will be received into the church family on October 27. Please RSVP by Wed. October 2. Email Marty (mbutler@parkchurchgr.org) or call her at the church office, 459-3203. You are welcome to attend the class even if you are unsure about membership. We look forward to meeting you!

Carol Choir - begins September 15

Children 4 - 8 years old are invited to join the Carol Choir. Led by Cheryl Wells, the Carol Choir meets every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:15 in the third floor youth choir room. New singers are always welcome. Email Cheryl (cherylwells71@yahoo.com) for more information.

Chapel Choir - begins September 15

Youth 9 - 13 years old are invited to join the Chapel Choir. Led by Heidi Hertel, the Chapel Choir meets every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:15 in Thompson Chapel. New singers are always welcome. No experience necessary! Email Heidi (missheidisings@gmail.com) for more information.



We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Coming up at Park Church

- Mon. Sept 9** ArtPrize artist set up
- Tues. Sept. 10** ArtPrize artist set up
at 7:00pm Board of Deacons meeting (committees at 6:00)
at 7:00pm Board of Trustees meeting (committees at 6:00)
- Wed. Sept 11** at 10:00am Park Church Women board meeting
- Thurs. Sept. 12** at 5:30 Days for Girls Kit Creation Day
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 7:00pm West Michigan Survivors of Suicide Loss meeting
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. Sept 15** at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship
Drop off Cookies for Degage
at 9:00am *Beyond Religion* Book Study
at 11:45 Confirmation Lunch and Learn for youth and families

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Mike Mitchell, Captain

Janet Mitchell, Amy Rains, Doris Robey, Richard Rowe, Doug Rubingh

Parking Lot Greeter: Chris Camfferman

Greeters: Beth and Paul Kelly; Kathy and Mike Cairns

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Kevin Arnett

Flower Care: Marcia Bishop

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:00

10 E Park Pl. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-3203

office@parkchurchgr.org

www.parkchurchgr.org

www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

The wifi password is parkchurchguest.



Access the online donor and payment portal by using the camera on your phone and clicking the link that appears.