KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Sanctuary in the City: Living Faith

Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But while joined by many bonds, which one precedes and brings forth the other is not easy to discern. In the first place, no one can look upon [one]self without immediately turning thoughts to the contemplation of God in whom we "live and move." For, quite clearly, the mighty gifts with which we are endowed are hardly from ourselves … by these benefits shed like dew upon us, we are led as by rivulets to the spring itself. … we recognize that the true light of wisdom, sound virtue, full abundance of every good, and purity of righteousness rest in the Lord alone.

~ John Calvin

OCTOBER 30, 2022 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Gathering

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—with whatever joys, questions, or tears you bring today—as we worship God, who welcomes us all!
You are invited to listen for God's Spirit speaking to you through the music of the Prelude, as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.
Let us worship God.

Prelude

Morning Hymn — Flor Peeters

* Doxology (tune #607)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* Opening Responses

God of the past who has loved us into life, we are here to thank you!
God of the future, who is always going ahead of us, we are here to trust you!
God of the present here in the midst of us, we are here to praise you!
God of hope beyond us and peace within us, we rejoice in your promise for us!

* Hymn #624

I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art — Genevan Psalter

A Litany of Living Faith for Reformation Sunday

Through ages of history and our lineage of hope,
from cities in Switzerland and clans of Scotland to communities in our nation,
God calls us to pursue holy purposes amid powers of our world, for better or worse.
As tartans were once outlawed in Scotland, we know these powers can corrupt or repress God's grace in us, and tear apart our fabric of communion in Christ's love.
We lament the brokenness in our personal lives and our relationships,
the selfishness and insensitivity of which our thoughts and actions are a piece.
We celebrate divine incarnation and redemption in Jesus Christ!
As early Christians gathered in secret, and Scots of old slipped pieces of tartan into sanctuaries to resist corrupt powers and reflect life together,
we bring the pieces of our lives and relationships to you this day.
Lest we forget that our heritage of faith is a responsibility to uphold, not to hoard,
Lest we falter in living faith, may holy love continue to touch our hearts,
reform our church, and transform our world.
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love in our Lord Jesus Christ!

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks,
to live holy and joyful lives, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Please stand and take a moment to share Christ's peace with others, respecting personal need for distance and level of comfort.

* GLORIA #583 *Glory to God* Gloria (Taizé)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING

Children: You are loved!
Congregation: **You are loved!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of All Life, as we try to follow Jesus' way of loving service, fill us with your Spirit. Soften our hearts to desire your presence. Sharpen our minds to discern your truth. Shape our wills, that we may delight in your purpose for us and all creation. Amen.

FIRST READING Psalm 65 Old Testament, p. 527

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Psalm 23* J. Rutter

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture
And lead me beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness
For his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me:
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING Luke 19:1-10 New Testament, p. 82

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,

Thanks be to God.

SERMON Reflections of Living Faith

"Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed …"
(Psalm 65:1)

* HYMN #697 *Take My Life* Frances Havergal

THE THANKSGIVING

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH

We give thanks to God and live faith, offering ourselves through worship, work, service, and love in all its forms.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor (BWV 565)* J.S. Bach

* RESPONSE #711 *Lord of All Good* Albert Bayly

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER AND LITANY OF DEDICATION

Creating and sustaining God, in baptism you claim us in love, and call us to serve.
You join us with the company of Jesus in the rich inheritance of Your grace.
We praise You, God, for all blessings of time, money, or ability we offer!
We dedicate to You our pledges and every purpose we share together.
Grounded in our living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, O God,
we seek to reflect Christ's light in Your world.
Continually discerning Your vision of grace and peace,
we pledge to share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture,
compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice —
to the glory of Your love in our community and all creation! Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.…
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 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, now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

* HYMN #307 *God of Grace and God of Glory* Harry Fosdick

* BENEDICTION *(Our congregational response is **"Alleluia! Amen!")***

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders
The Rev. Seth Weeldreyer
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Meredith Alspach

Guests
Dave Campbell
Erin Arwady

PARTICIPANTS
Acolyte
Gary Zandt

Reader
Richard Coryell

Greeters
Julie & Phil Kechele

Sound
Sound Team members

Music
Carl Witt, Director
Autumn, Organist

MAPPING OUR FUTURE — ENVISIONING GOD'S CALL

Our last Strategic Vision was completed in 2016. After a pandemic delay, now it seems we're ready to move forward with another discernment process!

In November, we'll begin a process called Appreciative Inquiry. We'll share stories of meaningful church experiences through which we glean strengths, values, and dreams. It's a positive focus to rebuild bonds of love and reinvigorate our life together, as we seek how God calls us to serve. We'll come out with a plan. Even more, we'll be filled with gratitude, joy, and hopeful energy!

We're offering a series of meetings with 25-30 participants maximum. There will be special times for our youth and residents of Friendship Village, the Artisan (Heritage Community), and Bronson Place. Dates below are open to all people, meeting in our Dining Room. Please, sign up by using this QR code, or in the Gathering Place after worship. If those options don't work, please contact Kelly Short in the church office.

- Sundays at 11:30 am—November 20 and 27, December 4, January 8 and 22
- Wednesday, November 30 at 1:00 pm.
- Wednesday, January 18 at 6:00 pm

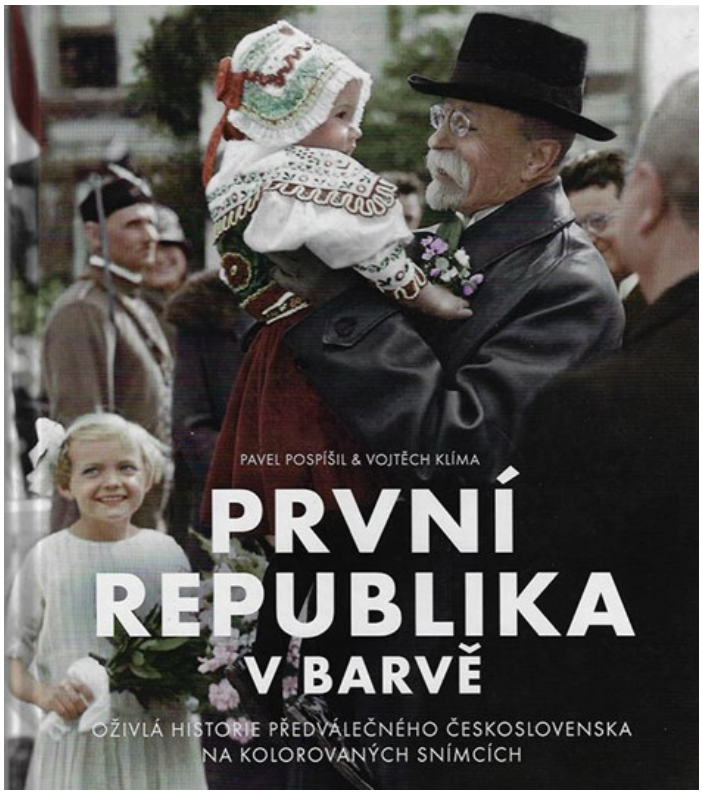
Heather Kortlandt, Mark Loehrke, Amber Nettleton, and Seth Weeldreyer are facilitating this process. Please, contact any one of them with further questions. We look forward to sharing stories and dreaming together!

Announcements

Storytelling Sundays:

Eva Hanka's Story

Join us next Sunday, Nov. 6, at 11:30 a.m. for a special storytelling event with our guest, Eva Hanka. Lunch is included.



With only the clothes on their backs, Eva and Ladislav Hanka rode a train to the Czech Republic border and then trekked the remaining 10 or so kilometers through the Sumava mountains. They passed to freedom undetected by authorities guarding the Forbidden Zone.

That fall, in 1950, when they realized there was no future for them behind the Iron Curtain, Eva and her young husband, Ladislav, walked out of their homeland toward a new life. They would eventually land in Kalamazoo and become members of First Presbyterian Church!

Her story begins much earlier, with an iconic photo of a beaming politician holding a toddler. Eva was born in the first Czech Republic, and that toddler, on a national postage stamp, was Eva! This amazing lady has a important story to tell. She is in her 90's and has experienced history in ways we can't even imagine.

RSVP using this link https://tinyurl.com/yfz7hvtp or QR code, or email Chrissy to let her know you will attend.

Deacons' Prayers

One of the great gifts of a community of faith is that we take time and intention to pray for one another. This week, we pray for **Carol Parfitt** and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence and power in their lives. Next week, we'll pray for another Deacon and parish group.parish group.

Joe, Susan, Nicholas, and Grace Agostinelli
Amy, Kenneth, Megan, and Elizabeth Bell
Michael Bova
Nancy Colburn
Kathy and Don Cooney
Franklin Davidson
Ellen Dykhuis
Carol Eddy
Richard and Julie Hakken
Bruce and Kathleen Houtman
Marilyn Jauch
Barbara Kafil
Mark, Sharon, Maxwell, Molly, and Jake Longman
Krista Matthews, Katrina and Dean Jackson
W. Craig and Diane Misner
Richard and Karen Nellums
William, Shelley, and Jason Rylander
Paul and Donna Schonveld
David and Sandra Standish
Richard and James Steele
Neil Stuut
Laurie Tupper
Philip Ward

Birthdays in the First Week of November

Oct. 30
Susanne Rose

Nov. 1
Mary Lou Boughton
Sue Cole
Mark Ohrstrom
Joseph Sablan

Nov. 2
Dianne Hollenbeck
Ellen Stults

Nov. 3
Kelsey Oliver
Jim Stephenson

Nov. 4
Thomas Forsch
Beth Jarl
Annie Leong
Mark Loehrke
JoAnn Yochim

Nov. 5
John Petro

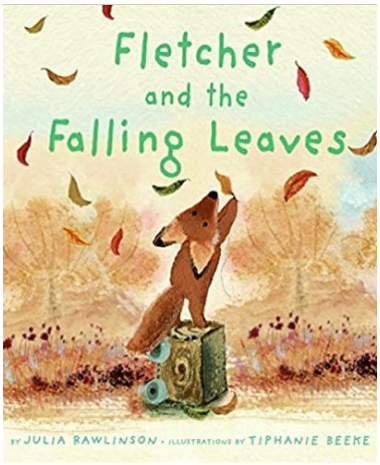
Nov. 6
Jocelyn Hodgman
Mary Poel
Seth Weeldreyer

Nov. 7
Al García
Betty Mbangwaba
Sandra Standish

New Member Exploration Class — All are Welcome

Do you want to know more about the mission and history of our church, various areas of ministry, AND receive a building tour while connecting with others? All are welcome to a membership exploration class following Worship on November 13. We will gather in Room 314/315 to begin our tour with a time of lunch and sharing. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Amber to RSVP.

Announcements



Seasons of Change:
Exploring grief and loss through the lenses of children's literature

Join us as we explore themes of grief and loss through the prophetic book of Ecclesiastes and popular children's literature.

This last Sunday, the book will be *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson, illustrated by Tiphanie Beeke. We meet in the Library following Worship on Oct. 30.

Seeking a Righteous Mind

Jonathan Haidt, a moral psychologist, asks why it can be hard for us to get along. **On Tuesdays at Noon in the Library,** we'll discuss his book: *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*. "He shows why liberals, conservatives, and libertarians have such different intuitions about right and wrong, and … why each side is actually right about many of its central concerns … Haidt gives you the key to understanding the miracle of human cooperation, as well as the curse of our eternal divisions and conflicts. If you're ready to trade in anger for understanding …" well, get the book and come, get along together! This week (11/1) we're discussing chapter 7. **Contact Pastor Seth with any questions.**

Refugee Resettlement

The Refugee Resettlement team is going to be meeting monthly, starting in November. We will meet the 3rd Sunday of the month in Room 301.

Announcements

Responding to Grace with Gratitude

2022/2023 Stewardship Campaign Update

To Volunteer scan this code:

Stewardship letters have just gone out this week, and we are now starting to receive pledges back in (9 so far!), so send in your pledges or scan the QR code Squares to join us in all the different ways God calls us to serve!

TO PLEDGE

At church:	By mail:	Online:	Or scan
Drop in the Offering plate	321 W. South St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007	https:// fpckzoo.org/ stewardship/	

Yoga: The sacred in me sees the sacred in you

Yoga is in the Dining Room on Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m.
There will be no Yoga on 11/16 or 12/17.
jmbarnum68@gmail.com or (269) 330-5995.

Adult & Bell Choirs

Handbell Choir will be meeting at 5:30 on Thursdays in Room 116, and Adult Choir at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place.

Thoughtful Readers Book Club

Meetings of the Thoughtful Readers Book Club will resume in November.
We meet in Room 300 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month.

Announcements

Announcements

Wednesday Noon Prayer

… will meet again this week in the Sanctuary. This shorter service includes meditative music and brief reflection on scripture for this week, all framed by prayer. We hope to share this time with you!

Using Google Meet and Zoom

Just a quick note that our church has had two subscriptions for Zoom — Pastors Chrissy and Seth. Pastor Seth will be discontinuing his, switching to using Google Meet.
It saves money and seems at least as easy. Pastor Chrissy's annual subscription has about nine months left. If you'd like help to schedule meetings which include a platform like these, please contact Pastor Chrissy, Pastor Seth, or Kelly Short to help set up a link.

El Camino pilgrimage — September 2023

Pastor Seth is ready to move forward with plans for a pilgrimage journey along *El Camino de Santiago* in Spain. It will likely be about a ten- or eleven - day experience, including eight or nine days walking. We'll try to average 10 miles per day over hilly terrain.
We'll seek the presence of God and inspiration for our path of life as we saunter in the footsteps of so many pilgrims across many centuries, and open our hearts to one another and others we meet on the way. **Others in times past have powerfully found how these spiritual experiences foster peace and renewed purpose, and forge relationships deeply bonded in love.**

Dates for the journey will be somewhere between Labor Day weekend (end of August) and the end of September, depending on participant availability and flight / housing arrangements. A rough estimate of cost would be $2500-3000, depending highly on the volatility of pricing for airline tickets.

If you would like to join this pilgrim journey, please contact Pastor Seth by Sunday, Nov.6.

Buen Caminoj

Taizé Worship

This style of worship fosters a more contemplative spirit, including readings and prayers interspersed with silence and singing, led by piano. Sitting in a circle around candles is a simpler, centering way to share worship. Come, give it a try on the second Sunday of the month! Our next service will be on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Transept of our Sanctuary.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 3:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place. We have been learning about the women named in Matthew's account of Jesus genealogy. The final lesson in this series is called **"What are these women doing in a place like this?"** and will remind us that they were outsiders who played important roles in God's plan for humanity and ask what that means in today's world. All women are invited to join us for study and fellowship. For more information please contact Elaine Johns at emjohns513@aol.com or **269-323-7395.**

Greeting Cards Available!

Share greetings for special occasions, and spread the love of Christ with friends and family with a handwritten note on one of Card Ministry's handcrafted cards! On Sunday, Nov. 13, Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry will again have cards available for members of the congregation. Donations are gladly accepted; they will help us purchase supplies, and will also support church and community groups attended by Card Ministry members.

Columbarium Renovation

The planned Columbarium Renovation in underway. A limited number of niches are available. If you are interested please contact Kelly or Louise in the church office with regard to available locations. We do anticipate an increase in the Columbarium niche fees November 1. A signed contract and payment are required.

Listening Post

The first Sunday of each month, following the sanctuary service, one or two current session members will be stationed at the Listening Post in the Guild Room. We are very interested in what our congregation has to say! Any and all concerns are valuable, and will be kept strictly confidential. We look forward to talking with you soon!

Janet Todd, and Ellen Dykhuis.

Announcements

Children's Prayground

Philosophy of a Prayground

- It's important for children to be a part of Worship, so that Worship can become a part of their heart language.
- Children don't always listen best when they're sitting still!
- The intention is to give parents a way to worship with their children — a way that makes it easier for families.

Ways to Use the Prayground

- Families can sit together in the West Transept.
- Children can take a "stretch" break during Worship, taking advantage of the various activities available to help quiet their bodies while they listen.
- **However, the Prayground is not staffed. *Please do not leave children there unattended.***

Rickman House Outreach

The Rickman House is an apartment building in downtown Kalamazoo that provides housing and 24-hour staff support to low-income adults with special needs. FPC has a long-standing relationship with Rickman House, including providing a community Bingo game on the third Saturday of every month, with prizes of household goods and some fun items to bring some joy. **Prize donations are always appreciated and can be placed in the labeled bin in the narthex or in the mail room near the offices. If you'd like to help with Bingo Night, contact Mike Boersma at mike.boersma@gmail.com.**

A few items that the residents have requested for the prize table are:

Household items:
Soap
Body wash
Shampoo
Conditioner (request for V05)
Vaseline
Toilet paper
Dish poap
Laundry detergent

Food items (ONLY the following:)
Chunky soups
Instant Oatmeal
Cereal

Fun Stuff:
Books (any kind — fiction)
Perfume
Stuffed animals
DVD's (comedy, Hallmark movies — not BluRay!)
CD's (Christian music, classical, oldies)
Bracelets, necklaces — pretty things
Fuzzy socks
Slippers
Colored pencils

Announcements

Celebrate the Vision

CTV NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Do you have a group of friends who love to cook? CTV would love your help in making dinner for our downtown guests. And we make the process so easy for you! Talk to Meredith for more information! meredithа@fpckzoo.org.

YOUTH & FAMILIES

Youth Group for grades 8-12 meets this week from **5:30 - 8:00 p.m.** at the church for our annual **Halloween Party!** Dinner will be provided, and costumes are encouraged. All are welcome!

There will be Sunday School this week immediately following time with the children.

T.A.G. 5/6/7 will meet Wednesday, November 2 from 6:30-7:30 pm at the church.

Tentative Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 30

9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
9:30 a.m. Child Care, *Rooms 208/211*
9:30 a.m. Hearts-to-Hands *Gathering Place*
10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, *Third Floor*
11:15 a.m. Seasons of Change, *Library*
11:15 a.m. Refugee Resettlement, *Rm 301*
5:30 p.m. Youth Group 8-12, *DR & YR*

Monday, October 31

12:00 p.m. A.A., *Room 314/315*
7:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Singers, *Gathering Place*
7:00 p.m. Scouts, *Dining Room/Rm 102*
7:00 p.m. Thoughtful Readers Club, *Rm 300*

Tuesday, November 1

7:00 a.m. Presbyterian Men's Group, *Archives*
10:00 a.m. Bulletin/Announcements deadline
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Archives*
12:00 p.m. Book Club, *Library, Seth*
4:00 p.m. Endowment Meeting, *Archives*

Wednesday, November 2

10:45 a.m. **NO YOGA**, *Dining Room*
12:00 p.m. Prayer Service, *Sanctuary*
5:00 p.m. Celebrate the Vision, *Dining Room*

Thursday, November 3

9:00 a.m. Library Work Time, *Library*
9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study, *Rm 314/315*
12:00 p.m. A.A., *Rm 315*
4:00 p.m. Food Addicts, *Rm 314/315*
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Rm 116*
6:00 p.m. Property & Maintenance, *Library*
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Choir Rm*

Sunday, November 6

9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
9:30 a.m. Child Care, *Rm 208/211*
10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, *Third Floor*
11:15 a.m. Seasons of Change, *Library*
11:15 a.m. Refugee Resettlement, *Rm 301*
5:30 p.m. Youth Group 8-12, *DR & YR*

Share your Stories

Share your love of the church! We want to feature congregants on our social media, sharing why they love our church. Please send your 144-character response and an optional photo of yourself to:shellyp@fpckzoo.org.
Help us spread the love!

Office Hours

Monday — Thursday: 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Closed Friday — Sunday

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO
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The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x203	chrissyw@fpckzoo.org
Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth and Families, x208	mereditha@fpckzoo.org
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206	louiset@fpckzoo.org
Kelly Short, Operations/Communications Coordinator, x209	kellys@fpckzoo.org
Shelly Parkhurst, Communications	shellyp@fpckzoo.org
Carl Witt, Director of Music, x204	carlw@fpckzoo.org
Autumn, Organist	autumn@fpckzoo.org
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213	shawns@fpckzoo.org
Custodians	Randy Randt
	Logan McCafferty
Library	library@fpckzoo.org
South Lobby Receptionists, x221	Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush
	Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding
The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido, Parish Associate	elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
The Reverend Amber Nettleton, Parish Associate	amber.nettleton@gmail.com

UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.

November 6
22nd Sunday after Pentecost /
All Saints' Day — Holy Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 20:27-38; Ephesians 1:11-23

November 13
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

November 20
Reign of Christ Sunday
Holy Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 138; Colossians 1:3-20

November 27
First Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Dr. Liz Candido
Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world. Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice...all to the glory of God.