



Presbytery of Lake Michigan
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

September 13, 2025
We Gather to Worship

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Elder Randy Abraham (Grand Haven First)

Praise the LORD!

Praise the Lord, oh my soul!

Happy are those who execute justice for the oppressed;
who give food to the hungry.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,

Praise the LORD,
Praise the LORD, oh my soul! Let us worship God together.¹

***Hymn #100**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Rev. Calandra Nevenzel (Richland First)

Jesus was baptized by John in the river Jordan, and we are joined by our baptisms into one community, led by Christ. As part of the baptized community, we come together to confess our sin because sin is not only an individual offense, but a communal one. Together, let us confess our sin before God and one another, trusting in God’s forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Compassionate God, we have not done what is right. We have turned away from those in need of shelter. We do not offer support to the homeless. We do not offer sanctuary to immigrants and refugees. We let our fears rule us, planted by those who seek to divide us. We exclude those who look different, who sound different, who once called another place home. We forget that what we do to others, we do to you. We forget that what we do not do for others, we do not do for you. Forgive us. Our guilt is overwhelming, and we do not know what to do. Cleanse us of our sin, and teach us to turn our guilt into action; Renew in us your

¹ From Psalm 146 NRSVU

love, that we might love the world as you do; Open our hearts to the voices of others, that we might hear you in them. Through your Beloved, our Savior and Teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of God's Love and Sharing in Christ's Peace

God's forgiveness and love are given to us freely and joyfully. As God declared when Jesus came up from the water, and as was promised us at our baptisms, we are God's beloved. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God. The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**²

We Hear the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Jackie Skinner (Schoolcraft First)

Faithful God, give us courage to seek your love. Give us courage to join our voices with others. Give us courage to hear your Word and your will in our lives. Amen.

Anthem

Beatitudes part 4: Blessed Are Those Who Seek Justice

Cesar Franke

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 4:23-28; James 2: 14-26

Omar Salinas-Chacón

Message

"Christ Calls Us to Be More Than Allies"

Omar Salinas-Chacón

We Respond to the Word

***Hymn (See insert)**

God of the Traveler

Installation of the Presbytery Vice-Moderator

**Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser-Brydon
Elder Benjamin Boerkoel**

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of

² Hart-Anderson, Madeline, "Immigration Worship Resources: Lent and Holy Week" PC(USA).org.

humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. Today it is our joy to share the call of God to Elder Ben Boerkel as vice moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Ben, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways which serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do you, members of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, confirm the call of God to our sibling Ben Boerkel as vice moderator in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

We will.

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading Ben to this time and place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be (a) faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

Ben, you are installed to service as vice moderator in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Offering

Rev. David Schell (Jackson First)

The offering today is designated to support the PC(USA) Disaster Assistance

Offertory

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Rev. Amy Ruhf-Brien (Big Rapids United)

**God of love and compassion: may we always recognize your spirit:
in the refugee family, seeking safety from violence;
in the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables;
in the asylum-seekers, seeking justice for their families;
May these resources that we humbly give bring your love and justice into this world. In
Jesus' name, Amen. ³**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Lorenzo Small (Battle Creek First)

Invitation

Great Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

***Hymn (See insert)**

"Abraham Journeyed to a New Country"

***Charge and Benediction**

Omar Salinas-Chacón

Postlude

Thank you to all those who participated in leading worship today.

Musicians:

Director of Music: Dr. Carl Witt

Soloist: Daniel Kring

³ Adapted from Hartnett, Dan, S.J. "Give Us Hearts." In "Prayer for an Interfaith Gathering," *Prayers and Reflections*, Mission and Identity, Loyola Marymount University.

God of the Traveler

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5.5.5.4.D

Suggested Tune: COME TO THE TABLE (Glory to God #508)

God of the traveler,
God of the journey,
Shelter and refuge,
Savior and friend.
Traveling with us,
Our close companion,
Grant us protection,
'Til journey's end.

Refugee fleeing
Prison and torture;
Seeking asylum,
Living in fear.
Children and parents
Torn from each other,
Great God of mercy
Hear heartfelt prayer.

Parents of Jesus,
Refugee guardians,
Flee Herod's rage, you
Shelter the child.
Fathers and mothers,
Children beloved,
To you entrusted,
God's undefiled.

Wanderers, travelers,
Weary and worried,
God grant us strength and
Courage to dare.
Risking our safety,
Freedom, and status,
Your children need us,
Dare us to care.

Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D ("Morning Has Broken")

Ab - ra - ham jour - neyed to a new coun - try; Sar - ah went
Ma - ry and Jo - seph feared Her - od's or - der; Sol - diers were
Some heard the pro - mise— God's hand would bless them! Some fled from
Did they know hard - ship? Did they know dan - ger? Who shared a
God, our own fam - ilies came here from far lands; We have been

with him, jour - ney - ing too. _____ Slaves down in Eg - ypt fled Phar - aoh's
com - ing! They had to flee. _____ Tak - ing young Je - sus, they crossed the
hun - ger, fam - ine and pain. _____ Some left a place where oth - ers op -
home or gave them some bread? _____ Who reached a hand to wel - come the
stran - gers, "al - i - ens" too. _____ May we reach out and of - fer a

ar - my; Ruth left the home and a peo - ple she knew.
bor - der; So was our Lord a young re - fu - gee.
pressed them; All trus - ted God and star - ted a - gain.
stran - ger? Who saw their fear and gave hope in - stead?
wel - come As we have all been wel - comed by you.

Biblical references: Genesis 12, Ruth 1; Matthew 2:13-16, 10:40; 25:31-46; Hebrews 11, 13:2; Leviticus 19:18, 33-34

Tune: Gaelic melody

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Email: bcgillette@comcast.net See also <http://carolynshymns.com/>

Permission for free use of this hymn is given to churches that support the Office on Immigration Issues of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Hymn Note for “Abraham Journeyed to a Far Country”

Text: Throughout the Bible, we see stories of immigrants—people called to settle in new lands and begin new lives for a variety of reasons, people who trusted in God's protection along the way. Abraham and Sarah heard God's promise of a new land. Exodus is the story of God's people being led from slavery to the freedom of the Promised Land. Later, Ruth went with Naomi, her mother-in-law, because her love of family led her to take risks and leave the home she knew for a new home. Jesus himself was a refugee in Egypt when his parents had to flee from Herod for his safety. Jesus taught that one of the greatest commandments is to love our neighbors; these neighbors include foreigners (Luke 10:25-37 with references to Leviticus 19:18, 33-34). He also taught that all people will be judged on their compassion for those in need and their welcome of strangers (Matthew 25:31-46). Today, people are immigrants for many of the same reasons that these biblical people were. The Church is called to follow the Bible's teachings by welcoming and supporting immigrants today. Check out the web site of the Office on Immigration Issues of the Presbyterian Church (USA): <http://oga.pcusa.org/immigration/>

Tune: The hymn tune, Bunessan, is a traditional Gaelic melody that was originally associated with the 19th century Christmas carol, "Child in a Manger," by Mary Macdonald. When the Gaelic hymn was translated into English, the melody was named after the small village on the Scottish island of Mull by the translator, Lachlan Macbean. Eleanor Farjeon wrote a new hymn to this tune, "Morning Has Broken," that was published in 1931.

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is the author of *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* (Discipleship Resources/Upper Room Books, 2009) and *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* (Geneva Press, 2000) and the co-pastor of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. This congregation includes first generation immigrants from Brazil, England, Ghana, India, Scotland and South Africa, and provides space for a Ghanaian Presbyterian Fellowship. A complete list of Carolyn's 160+ hymns can be found at www.carolynshymns.com.