



Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Presbyterian Church [U.S.A.]

**September 12, 2026
We Gather to Worship**

Prelude

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” Doerksen, arr. Leonard

Call to Worship¹

Elder Heather Myer (East Lansing Eastminster)

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Our feet are standing within your gates.
Pray for the peace of this Presbytery.
May they prosper who love you.
Pray for the peace of every place.
May there be wholeness for all.
For the sake of all God’s people
I will say, “Peace be with you.”
**For the sake of the house of the Lord
I will seek your good.**

***Hymn**

“Shall We Gather at the River”
A hymn for the 227th General Assembly (2026)

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession²

Rev. Steve Kaszar (Concord First/Homer First)

As the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, we were once “strangers to the covenant of promise.” But now, in Christ Jesus, all who were far off have been brought near. GTG 1 Christ is our peace. He has broken down the dividing wall. In him we find reconciliation and forgiveness. Mindful of this good news, let us offer our prayers of confession together to God.

O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent, even in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we choose to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.

Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others, those both far and near. Hear our prayer, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Silence.

¹ Adapted from Psalm 122

² From GA 227 Closing Worship “Sending with Healing in Our Hearts”

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

Hear the good news! In Christ, we are no longer strangers; we are now members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together. A new life has begun! Friends, believe the good news and give thanks. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

We Hear the Word

Prayer for Illumination

#451 GTG "Open My Eyes that I May See" vs 1

Scripture Reading

Rev. Kristin Stroble (East Lansing, Eastminster)

Revelation 22:1-5

Message

Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly

"Leaves of Healing"

Elder Ben Boerkoel

Elder Heather Myer

Rev. Steve Kaszar

Rev. Kristin Stroble

We Respond to the Word

***Hymn #39 (GTG)**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Receiving A Candidate Under Care

Candidate Joanna Townley (Okemos)

Rev. Mackenzie Jager (Muskegon First)

On behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, I introduce and receive Joanna Townley as a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

Do you believe yourself to be called by God to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament?

I do.

Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry?

I do.

Do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?

I do.

Do you desire now to be received by this presbytery as a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

I do.

Charge

Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.³

³ 1 Tim. 4:7b-12

Prayer

Let us pray: God of prophets and apostles, you have chosen leaders to train your people in the way of Jesus Christ. We thank you that in our day you are still claiming your people for special work within the church. As Joanna has dedicated their self to you, let us pledge ourselves to them so that, surrounded by affection and hope, they may grow in wisdom, mature in love, and become a faithful worker, approved by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn #582 (GTG)**

“Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

Offering

Elder Heather Myer

Today's offering is designated to support the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the General Assembly. Like the leaves of the trees for the healing of the nations, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

“Jesus Paid It All” Grape/ Pachellbel, arr. Lopez

*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 Dedication⁴

Rev. Steve Kaszar

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have planted us on holy ground. Like a tree planted by living waters, you cause us to grow and flourish, bearing good fruit through your Spirit. Use the offering of our lives to bring healing and wholeness in this place, and in every place; all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Calandra Nevenzel (Richland First)

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is truly right and our greatest joy ...
with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to your glory:

⁴From the GA 227 Ecumenical Service, “Walking Together Toward Wholeness”

Sanctus

Myland

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord; God of power and might
Holy, holy, holy, Lord; God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!*

You are holy, ... Great is the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation

Myland

*Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*
Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us ...
And now we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us ...

The 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.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Instructions: All are welcome to come forward starting from the back pew of the sanctuary, and receive bread from Pastor Cal, and juice from the deacon on your side of the sanctuary, so you can easily return to your seat. You may eat and drink as soon as you receive the elements.

Communion Music

"Continuous Communion Meditations" arr. Parker

Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion

*Hymn

"Leaves of the Tree"
A hymn for the 227th General Assembly (2026)

Charge and Benediction⁵

Rev. Kristin Stroble

Since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us run with perseverance
the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all the saints. **Amen**

Postlude

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” English Country Song/Granados, arr. Lopez

*Thank you to all those who participated in leading worship today.
Accompanist: Maureen Lovequist, Director of Instrumental Music*

⁵Heb. 12:1-2; Rev. 22:20-21; 2 Cor. 13