

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

9:00 a.m.

*Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.*

\*Congregation standing for those who are able

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship pads and pass them back to the center aisle.

## Our Approach to God

Prelude

Preamble

Louis Vierne

The Call to Worship

Let us celebrate God's redeeming love, for God is love.

**He has shown us his love by sending his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.**

Let us draw close to God who is our only true source of life, for Jesus is the vine.

**We are the branches. Apart from him, we can do nothing.**

Let us join together in praising God, for his Spirit has been given to us.

**That is how we know that we live in him and he in us. Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

\*The Hymn of Praise      *Celebrate with Joy and Singing*      107

\*The Call to Confession

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. With this assurance, let us humbly confess our sins to God.

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we admit that too often we have been unfruitful branches of your vine. Too often we think we can bear fruit on our own. Too often we have forgotten the love and mercy we receive from you. Too often we have failed to share your love with the world. Forgive us. [Silent confession.] O Lord, do your work in us so that we might be rid of all unfruitfulness, bearing fruit to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

\*The Assurance of Pardon

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **Thanks be to God!**

\*The Response      *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*      106

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.**

The Anthem      Antiphon *from Five Mystical Songs*      Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Combined Chancel Choirs of First and Second Presbyterian Churches

## The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading      John 15:1-8      page 146 NT

The New Testament Reading      1 John 4:7-21      page 327 NT

The Sermon      *We Are God's Branches*      Pastor Ruth Estell

## Our Response to Serve

\*The Affirmation of Faith      The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)      hymnal, page 14

\*The Hymn      *I Need Thee Every Hour*      see insert

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer(using sins)

**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.**

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory      Father, We Praise Thee      The Paris Antiphoner, 1681  
Combined Chancel Choirs of First and Second Presbyterian Churches

\*The Doxology      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him,  
all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*The Prayer of Dedication

\*The Hymn      *God, Bless Your Church with Strength*      418

\*The Charge and Benediction

\*The Congregational Response      *Go with Us, Lord*      535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.**

\*Postlude      *Carillon*      Louis Vierne

\* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

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**Liturgist :** Peggy Donaldson

**Ushers:** Beverly Briggs, Josh Peters, Scott & Heather Rousseau

**Greeter:** Pete & Ginny Brucker

**Fellowship Hour:** Pastor Ruth & Sandy Rease

**Musical Talents:** Thomas Heidenreich, Director of Music Ministry

Joint Chancel Choirs from First and Second Presbyterian Churches.

Songs and broadcast are covered by:

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**Please join us immediately following worship in the gathering area for  
refreshments and fellowship.**

**For The Hearing Impaired**

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

# Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

April 28, 2024

**“I am  
the  
true  
vine ...”**



**John 15:1**

*Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.*

# Announcements and Upcoming Event

## 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Second

Grab a refreshment and join us today after worship in the library as we continue the Great Courses Series on The New Testament.



This is the last Sunday in April for our Giving Catalog focus. Many thanks to all of you who have generously given so far. We're less than halfway to our family farm goal—if we don't make it there, we'll contribute the goats, chickens, etc. that we have accomplished. But please, if you have considered giving but haven't done so, please put something in the pew envelopes & label it for Mission, or Giving Catalog, & help families toward sustainability. Don't forget to put your names in the drawing box for a chance at the animal tote bags. Thanks for all that all of you do for our mission efforts! If you would like more information on the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, please

visit their website at <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org>.

## New Member's Class

A new member's class will be held mid-late May. If you are interested in exploring church membership, please call the office (989-792-1023) or email Pastor Ruth ([pastor@spcsaginaw.org](mailto:pastor@spcsaginaw.org)). Once we know who is interested, we will find a time to meet that works for everyone's schedule.



## JOB OPENING: Christian Education Director

We are looking for a creative and energetic individual to develop and oversee the educational programs of our church to encourage the spiritual growth of all members. This is a part-time position which would consist of 10 hours per week. A detailed job description is available for review on the table with sign-up sheets. For additional information please contact a member of the Christian Education Committee: Pam Moran, Christy Higley, or Laura Bosley.

## I Need Thee Every Hour

G D G C G

1 I need thee ev-ery hour, most gra-cious Lord;  
 2 I need thee ev-ery hour, stay thou near by;  
 3 I need thee ev-ery hour, in joy or pain;  
 4 I need thee ev-ery hour, teach me thy will,

D G D A D

no ten-der voice like thine can peace af-ford.  
 temp-ta-tions lose their power when thou art nigh.  
 come quick-ly, and a-bide, or life is vain.  
 and thy rich prom-is-es in me ful-fill.

Refrain

G C G D D7 G

I need thee, O I need thee; ev-ery hour I need thee!

C G C G D7 G

O bless me now, my Sav-ior, I come to thee.

## John 15:1-8 New International Version

**15** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

**5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## 1 John 4:7-21 New International Version

**7** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**13** This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

**19** We love because he first loved us. **20** Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. **21** And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.