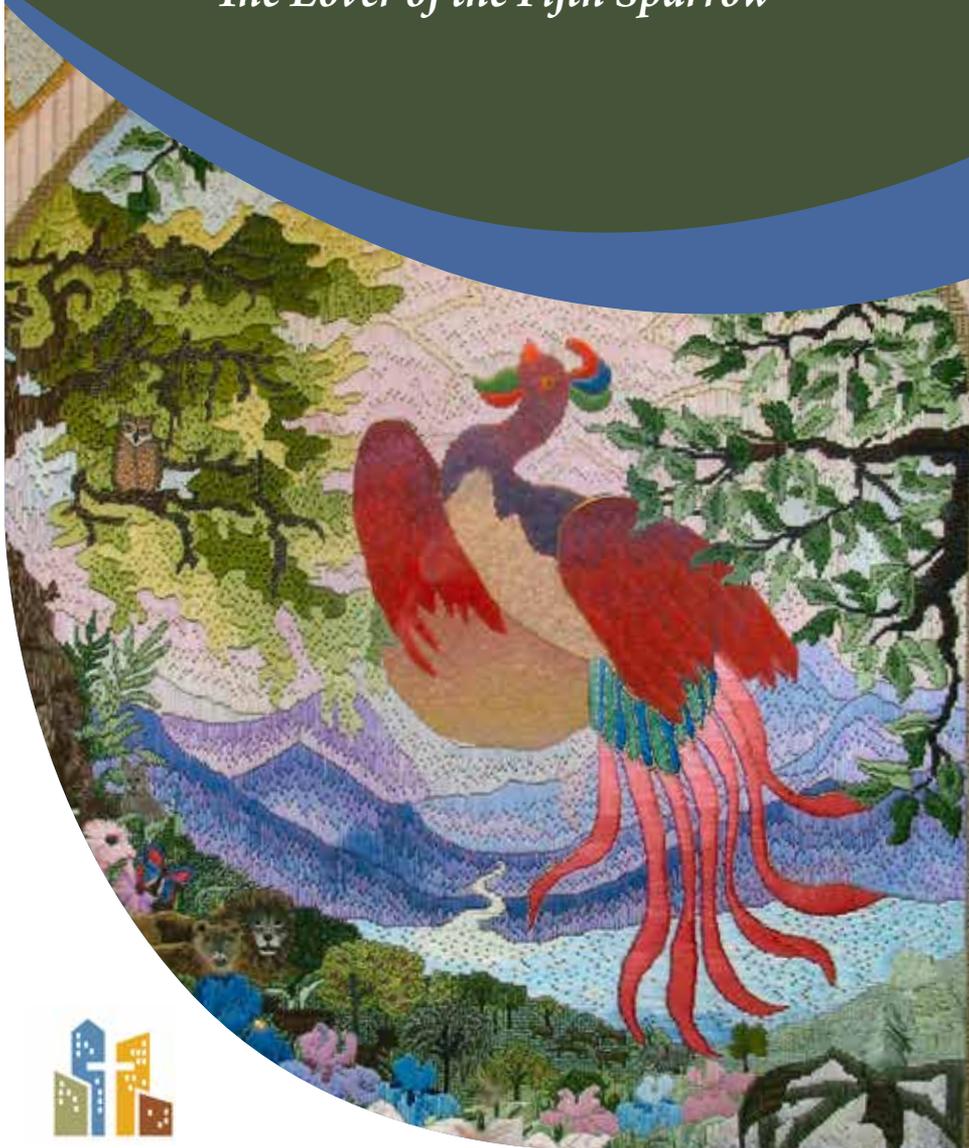


First (Park) Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

May 8, 2022

“The Lover of the Fifth Sparrow”



+ Hymn of Praise - No. 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Tune: DIADEMATA

+ Opening Prayer

Reading in Unison

Andrew DeBoer, liturgist

Wise God, Your spirit traveled over the face of the deep and called forth life. You breathed life into the first human beings and into all creation. You taught us grace, Your way of life. You call us away from the world we created to be rooted in Your creation. In Your creation there is always something new springing forth. You lead us beside the still waters and green pastures. You are our Mother, our Father, our Everything. We are every day born anew through Jesus Christ, to be a new creation. Help us to live into Your wisdom. Amen.

+ The Chimes

The Chimes give us an opportunity to center ourselves as we stand in silence and prepare our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to receive the message God has for us.

Presentation of Third Grade Bibles

Gloria Eckert

Director of Children's Ministries

One: Today you receive this Bible as a gift from your church family

All: Learn its stories and study its words.

One: Its stories belong to us all,

All: Its words speak to us all.

One: They tell us who we are.

All: They tell us that we belong to one another, for we are the people of God.

*Dorothy Brown
Luisa Clara Hickman
Caroline King
Olivia Michelle Wisser*

The Blessing of the Children

Reading Responsively

Rev. Dr. Coyle

*Children and youth are dismissed for Worship Center and Sunday School Classes.
First time visitors: we invite you to go with your children to see their classrooms
and to meet their teachers. Then come back and join us for worship!*

One: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

Congregation: **May the Lord be with you and may the Word
of the Lord grow in your hearts.**

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Celebration and Blessing of the Graduates

Greggory Hampshire

Kate Meengs, Mark Meengs

Youth Leaders

Luke Barnum

Jack O'Malley

Amelya Robyns

Madeline Tay

...concluding, the congregation prays in unison:

**May God who began this good work in you carry it through to
completion, enabling you to use your talents to the fullest.**

**May God give you the grace to make wise choices and to be
faithful to your commitments, always confident in the support
of those who love you.**

**May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you will live
deep within your heart.**

**May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and
exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice,
equality, and peace.**

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.

May God bless you with the dream of making a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

**May your integrity be a gift to the world
and may the Spirit of God be with you always. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

Luke 12:6, 7

Matthew 25:31-46

Janet Mitchell, liturgist

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

+ Congregational Response

Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father (Creator),
and to the Son (Christ) and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.***

The Prayer of the People and Our Savior's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Jensen

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.

Choral Response

The Chancel Choir
May Our Prayer Be Praise
Samuel Pellman

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Jensen

“The Lover of the Fifth Sparrow”

Organ Meditation

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
Andante Espressivo
Hélène Riese Liebmann(1795 - ca.1859)

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Dr. Coyle

Offertory Music

The Chancel Choir
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Arr. Dan Forrest

(For text, see hymn no. 35)

+ Doxology - No. 606

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him (God) all creatures here below;
Praise him (God) above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
(Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost). Amen.*

+ Prayer of Dedication

Reading in Unison

**As we offer our gifts and hearts to you, O God, may they
be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of
community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their
lives. Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn - No. 186

Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table
Tune: COME NOW, YOU BLESSED

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.

The service of worship concludes with Our Common Commission.

*If you are leaving the Sanctuary during the Postlude,
please be respectful of the musician and those who are listening.*

Recessional

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him
Arr. Anna Laura Page

The bulletin cover art for Eastertide is a detail of *Anastasis*, a needlepoint tapestry created by the Park Church Banner Committee to commemorate the rebuilding of Park Church following the 1988 Sanctuary fire. The word *Anastasis* is from the Greek meaning *resurrection*. The tapestry hangs at the top of the south stairs.

A brochure is available in the rack nearby.

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 card in your bulletin and place it in the plate during the offering.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 22, 2022

The Park Church Annual Meeting will be held on May 22, 2022 at 11:30am. The meeting will be held in-person in the sanctuary following the worship service with a virtual option using Zoom for those who cannot be present. The links to join the meeting and copies of the Annual Report will be shared with members in the coming days.

We send out news of the church in a weekly email called the *Congregationalist*. If you have not been receiving yours, OR you do not use email, please let us know so we can help you stay connected.

Our virtual services are all available to watch on our website:
www.parkchurchgr.org.

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar are in honor of our children,
Paul and Kate Nichols, Brian and Katie Bradley,
and Patrick and Carrie Garvey.
Given by Bob and Pam Nichols

The flowers at the Pulpit are in memory of
my mother, Mary Payne.
given by Terrie Hunter.

The flowers on the Children's Altar are
in honor of all the children.
Given by Kathy Miller.

*If you would like to mark an occasion by dedicating Altar flowers,
please contact Marcia Streeter (mabit1@gmail.com).*

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for the speedy recovery of Roger Kistler, father of our new Senior Minister Darryl Kistler who was transferred to a rehab facility in the Dallas, TX area. Roger recently had surgery and has developed some medical issues not directly related to the surgery itself.

Keep Mark Jackson and his family in your prayers. Mark's great-nephew Neiko McIntyre was shot and killed in Toledo last Saturday. You can send support to Mark at 1146 Dunham SE, Grand Rapids 49506.

Keep Evelyn Huyser in your prayers as she undergoes cancer treatments. Cards of support can be sent to 1510 Lancashire Dr. Grand Rapids 49508.

Lisa Smith is being treated for extremely serious covid-19 and is in need of your prayers. Please send cards of strength and support to: 570 Alles Dr. SW, Bryon Center 49315

Please remember those serving in the military including: Joe Birkhold, Jesse Campbell, Kit Grant, Kyle Kutsche, Andy MacGregor, Stefan Pawelka, and Matthew Quick.

Martenson Ten 70th Anniversary May 15 after worship

On February 27, 1952, a group of young women gathered in the parlor of Park Church to discuss the formation of a new "Ten". After much encouragement, Martenson Ten was born to Park Church. Charter members were: Phyllis McMurtry, Jacqueline McMurtry, Shirley Krapp, Eleanor Schols, Phyllis Land, Marilyn Steele, Joan Steele, Janet Card, Catherine Cossin, Patricia Post, Bea Humpf, and Barbara Hergenrather.

Discovering this information all these years later and realizing that THIS is the year of Martenson Ten's 70th birthday, current members of the Ten invite the congregation to enjoy a slice of birthday cake after service on Sunday, May 15 in Merriam Hall. We hope that you will all be able to stay a bit after that service and celebrate this milestone birthday with members of Martenson Ten.

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Bob Smith, Cindy Dexter, Chuck Dietiker, Harlan Wilson

Greeters: Jan and Wayne Edwards

Parking Lot Greeter: John Duiven

Sound: Sam Johnson

Video: Kevin Arnett

Flower Care: Kathy Miller

Nursery: Terry Barton, Craig Barton

Little Lambs: Lisa Sullivan, Lisa Boczar

Pre-K, K, and Grade 1: Lori Riegling, Anna Hickman, Amy Rains

Grades 2-5: Megan Cottrell-Gammage, Jeff Gammage

Children's Worship Center: Families with infants and toddlers can proceed directly to the nursery and "Little Lambs" classroom on the first floor. If you aren't sure which room is right for your child, our staff and volunteers can help you. Students in Pre-K - 5th grade sit with their families in the worship service. After the Children's Blessing, they go with Miss Gloria to the Worship Center classes on the lower level.

Middle School: Students in grades 6-8 are dismissed from the worship service at the appropriate time and meet in the 3rd floor youth room for the remainder of the service. **There is no class on May 8.** May 15 will be the last class of the program year.

High School students will meet during the worship service on May 15.

Upcoming Sundays

Sun. May 15 - Sanctuary Worship - Music Sunday

Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen, interim preaching minister

High School and Middle School during worship

This service will celebrate the close of the music ministry's program year and will feature the Chancel Choir, Parkmeisters, Choral Scholars, Smith Dively-Ringers, and the resident string quartet and brass quintet.

Following the service, we will gather in Merriam Hall for fellowship, coffee and (most importantly) cake in honor of Martenson Ten's 70th Anniversary.

The youth group's annual beach clean-up takes place after worship.

Sun. May 22 - Sanctuary Worship - Annual Meeting/Pet Sunday

Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen, interim preaching minister

*We are also celebrating our pets today! **We want pictures of your pet. You probably have some on your phone, so you can send them to the office right now: office@parkchurchgr.org.***

Sales of homecrafted pet toys and people treats as well as donated supplies will benefit no-kill shelters. Please refer to this Amazon wish list for suggested donations: <https://tinyurl.com/yd5h578p>

Watch the Congregationalist for more information.

This is the last week for Childrens Worship Center. Summer childcare will be available for infants through 5 years old starting May 29.

Sun. May 29 - Sanctuary Worship

Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen, interim preaching minister

Sun. June 5 - Sanctuary Worship - Pentecost/Baptism/Farewell

Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen, interim preaching minister

Riley will be preaching as our Interim Preaching Minister for the final time on June 5. We will celebrate him on his way this week and thank him mightily for his many months of service.

This service includes 5 (FIVE!) baptisms and communion.



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

As Jesus demonstrated by his life and teachings, we fully value and welcome all people into the life of Park Church, regardless of beliefs or doubts, age, color, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical, mental, or emotional ability, or economic status. In fact, we value and celebrate the rich diversity of all God's creation.

Our Vision

To build a community of relentless compassion
and courageous hope where all are seen and known, and
the God of extravagant love is revealed.

10 E Park Pl NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-3203 / office@parkchurchgr.org / www.parkchurchgr.org
www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 4:00

The wifi password is *parkchurchguest*.