



First  
Presbyterian  
Church *of Ann Arbor*

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 2025

8:30, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship



Photo Credit: Labyrinth at the Hillig Residence by Kurt Hillig



8:30 AM WORSHIP | APRIL 27, 2025  
Second Sunday of Easter

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*\* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,  
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

**GATHERING**

Welcome and Centering

**\*Call to Worship**

Let us sing a new song,  
**for Christ is risen!**

Let the oppressed clap their hands,  
**for even the wicked oppressor can't kill God's love!**

Let all creations make a joyful noise,  
**for all of creation will dwell with God!**

Let us sigh with relief,  
**for God's kingdom is coming.**

Let the shadow of sin fade away,  
**for we dance in the light of the resurrection!**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of new life, be with us in all the mistakes of life. In fatalism and denial of hope, in mistaken harm and intentional cruelty, in what we've done and what we've left undone, in the continued presence of injustice, in greed, and all the meaningless things we cling to, in desire for anything but the things you call good, remind us, O Lord, that none of these mistakes will last forever. By your spirit, meet us in all things, that as our mistakes fade away, our love for you comes into clear focus.**

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

**PROCLAMATION**

Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

Meditation

Tommy Langejans

## RESPONDING & SEALING

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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 our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 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.**

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

Charge and Benediction

Passing of the Peace

✠ ✠ ✠



9:30 AM WORSHIP | APRIL 27, 2025

## Confirmation Sunday/Second Sunday of Easter

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\* *Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,  
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.*

### GATHERING

Opening Voluntary      *Meditation on Pange Lingua*      Richard Jeffrey-Gray  
Cary Dumas, Guest Organist

Pouring of the Water

Welcome and Life in the Church

Faith in Action      Safety Committee

#### \*Call to Worship

Praise God! Rejoice! There is good news! Christ is risen!

**The cross is empty, the stone is rolled away. Christ is risen!**

Praise God! Christ meets us in the sanctuary  
of our fears and locked away spaces.

**Jesus tells us, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.”**

Praise God! Christ enters our closed hearts and breathes new life!

**Jesus tells us, “Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit.”**

Praise God! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

The tomb is empty

**and Christ is with us even still!**

**Let us worship the living God!**

\*Hymn 246      *Christ is Alive!*      TRURO

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, here we are—

**wounded and beautiful,  
full of the messiness of life—human.**

At times we have been the frightened ones,  
standing at a distance, worried about our safety  
or the reputations we carry.

**But you come close to us, bringing peace and challenge,  
unlocking us to a fuller life and setting us free.**

At times we have been the doubting ones,  
when creeds conflict or certainty has evaded us.

**But you come close to us and allow us to speak freely,**

**embracing us and setting us free.**

At times we have been the confused ones,  
feeling far from you with questions that don't have answers.

**Yet you have gathered us here this morning,  
after your resurrection, and we listen for your voice....**

## Silent Prayer

## Kyrie

LAND OF REST



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

The risen Christ says to us, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I am sending you." As the body of Christ, we join our voices together:

**Through our fear, through our doubt, through our confusion,  
may we continue Jesus' work as we travel many roads,  
liberated and united by the love of the resurrected one—  
we are forgiven people; thanks be to God.**

## \*Congregational Response

CELTIC ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

### First Scripture Reading

Psalm 150

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### A Conversation with Young Disciples

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Second Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
**The word of the Lord endures forever.**

Sermon

Mark Mares

**RESPONDING**

\*Hymn 256

*These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*

KEDRON

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Peace I Leave with You* Giacomo Perti/arr. Hal Hopson  
Chancel Choir

Peace I leave with you.  
Peace, my peace I leave with you.  
Let not your heart be troubled;  
Do not be afraid. I am the way, the truth, the life.

\*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

Prayer of Dedication

Presentation of Confirmation & the Sacrament of Baptism

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Blake, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Jesus and to be a faithful member of Christ's church? Do you?  
**We do!**

\*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

## Anointing with Oil and Laying of Shawls

### Prayers of the People, Thanksgiving for God's Work Among Us and 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 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.**

### SENDING

\*Hymn 691

*Lord, When I Came into This Life*

LAND OF REST

### \*Closing and Benediction

Today and tomorrow.

**Today and tomorrow.**

God says: I am with you always.

**When we try and do God's will—**

I am with you always.

**When we go where we do not know—**

I am with you always.

**When we meet one we do not recognize—**

I am with you always.

**Where faith ends and doubt begins—**

I am with you always.

**And should we forget you, God—**

God says: I am with you always.

**Today and tomorrow. Today and tomorrow.**

**God is with us always to the end of the world.**

... the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**



## WORSHIP NOTES

Today is Confirmation Sunday, a day of joyful welcome and faithful affirmation as we celebrate the youth who have completed the journey of confirmation and chosen to join First Pres as new members. Please join us in welcoming:

Wren Finnane  
Ellery Geiselman  
Josie Hollingsworth  
Blake Peters  
Carly Polikoff  
Claudia Schneider  
Daniel Suh  
Phillip Suh

Confirmation is a meaningful milestone in the life of our youth. It creates intentional space for them to lean into the questions they carry and the curiosity that shapes their own theological imagination. As part of their journey, each confirmand creates a personal Faith Expression—a reflection of where their faith is right now and how it continues to grow.

The word *confirm* comes from the Latin *confirmare*, meaning "to strengthen." In Confirmation, we recognize that it is God who ultimately confirms these young people in their faith. As a church community, we surround them with prayers, encouragement, and support—affirming their place in the life of faith and our shared life together.

As a tangible expression of that care, each Confirmand is presented with a handmade prayer shawl—a gift of warmth, comfort, and love, knit by members of the First Pres Knit Night group. Today's shawls were lovingly created by:  
Beth Caldwell, Mary Jane Chase, Cheryl Gulbranson, Ellery Hendrix, Sandy Herold, Chris Larson, Ann Lyzenga, and Mary Schudel.

We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and prayers these knitters have poured into each shawl. May they serve as a lasting reminder of God's promise, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the embrace of this church family.

To learn more about the Knit Night ministry, contact Prue Heikkinen at [prueannarbor@gmail.com](mailto:prueannarbor@gmail.com).







11:30 AM WORSHIP | APRIL 27, 2025  
Second Sunday of Easter

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**GATHERING**

Opening Voluntary

Pouring the Water

Welcome & Centering

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Let us sing a new song,

**All: for Christ is risen!**

Side A: Let the oppressed clap their hands,

**All: for even the wicked oppressor can't kill God's love!**

*Side B: Let all creations make a joyful noise,*

**All: for all of creation will dwell with God!**

Side A: Let us sigh with relief,

**All: for God's kingdom is coming.**

*Side B: Let the shadow of sin fade away,*

**All: for we dance in the light of the resurrection!**

**\*Opening Hymn 238**

*Thine Is The Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

One: God of new life, be with us in all the mistakes of life.

Side A: In fatalism and denial of hope,

*Side B: In mistaken harm and intentional cruelty,*

Side A: In what we've done and what we've left undone,

*Side B: In the continued presence of injustice,*

Side A: In greed, and all the meaningless things we cling to,

*Side B: In desire for anything but the things you call good,*

**All: remind us, O Lord, that none of these mistakes will last forever. By your spirit, meet us in all things, that as our mistakes fade away, our love for you comes into clear focus....**

*Silence is kept.*

Assurance of Grace

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## Passing of the Peace

As you pass the peace, share an answer to this prompt: When is it hardest to believe that Christ is risen? When is it easiest?

## Congregational Response 582

GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen. (3x)  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

Scripture Readings

John 20:19-31

Sermon

Tommy Langejans

## RESPONDING

Response Activity

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

## SENDING

\*Hymn 231 *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

SUO GAN

\*Benediction

...we go out in peace, **to love, to serve, to imagine.**

Closing Voluntary

✦ ✦ ✦

## CARRYING WORSHIP WITH US

What does it mean to carry Easter hope with us? How might the hope of new life grow in unique ways? This week, at the end of each day, make a list of at least 5 places where you found new life bursting forth. On days where this is challenging, list 5 places where new life is needed instead, and say a prayer of petition asking God to intercede.

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

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First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive and diverse faith community, led by the Holy Spirit, who welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to explore, nurture, and deepen their faith. Through worship, shared discussion, participation, and service, we aim to make God's love visible in our congregation, community, and world.

## **NEW TO FIRST PRES?**

We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad. Sign it then pass it down to others. Interested in membership? Contact Rev. Rogers, [mrogers@fpca2.org](mailto:mrogers@fpca2.org).

## **CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & CHILDCARE**

Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary or Monteith Hall. We also offer childcare from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm for children ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Ask an usher for directions.

## **PRAYER**

If you would like someone to pray with you, stop by the Prayer and Compassion Room after the 9:30 am service. Elders, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers are always there to assist those seeking prayer.

## **GIVE**

In response to God's generosity, we give generously of ourselves, our time, and our resources. These gifts sustain the work and outreach of this congregation to Make God's Love Visible. You can give at any time through our online giving portal or by calling the office at 734-662-4466 during business hours.

# Leading in Worship

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP

8:30 AM WORSHIP

Tommy Langejans

9:30 AM WORSHIP

Nathaniel Fryer

Mark Mares

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Tommy Langejans

## MUSICIANS

9:30 WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

Shayla Powell, Substitute Director of Chancel Choir

Cary Dumas, Guest Organist

David Hufford, Organist

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

11:30 AM WORSHIP

Joshua Marzan, *Pianist*

## USHERS

9:30 WORSHIP

Jim Cameron

Spaulding Clark

Martin Swindle

Connie Swindle

Keith Bilby

Sheila Bilby

Carol Carter

Bob Andrus

Bill Wood

## FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bob Hockett by his family; in memory of Graydon Krapohl by his wife Greta and daughter Grace; and in memory of Susan Rose Reynolds by your family who will always miss and cherish you.

The yellow rosebud is in honor of Louis Joseph Jandro, born April 12, 2025. Louis is the son of James and Katherine (Katy) Jandro and great-grandchild of Pam Ehrhart.

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*First Presbyterian worship services are filmed, recorded, and broadcast online. If you do not want to appear in any videos or photos, please speak with an usher.*

# Today in Faith Formation

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## ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_

10:45 AM

**EXPLORING THE FAITH**

**Museums and Forgiveness:  
Beyond the Pretty Pictures**

Speaker: Brad Taylor

Host: Sid Smith

Lewis Room

**EXPLORING THE BIBLE**

**The Parables of Jesus**

Host: Ed Koster

French Room

**FIRST FRIENDS**

**Christianity and World Religions:  
Islam**

Host: Carole Pawloski

Curtis Room

**FOLLOW ME**

**Honor God's Diversity!**

**Center Voices from the Margins**

Room 102

## CHILDCARE & NURSERY \_\_\_\_\_

**AGES 5 AND YOUNGER**

9:15 AM to 12:15 PM | Room 101

## CHILDREN & YOUTH \_\_\_\_\_

10:45 AM

**K-1ST GRADE**

**Jesus is King**

Room 302

**2ND - 5TH GRADE**

**Follow Me: Center the Ones Left Out**

Rooms 303, 304

**MIDDLE SCHOOL (6TH-8TH GRADE)**

**Follow Me: Center Voices from the  
Margins**

Lower Level 4

**HIGH SCHOOL (9TH-12TH GRADE)**

**Follow Me: Center Voices from the  
Margins**

Lower Level 1

## Calendar

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### TODAY

8:30 am **Worship with Communion** | Monteith Hall

9:30 am **Social Hour** | Welcome Center

9:30 am **Worship** | Sanctuary

10:30 am **Social Hour** | Social Hall

10:45 am **Faith Formation for All Ages** | Classrooms

11:30 am **Worship** | Monteith Hall

4:00 pm **New Member Class** | home of Tim and Marti Wendler

6:00 pm **Young Adult Game Night** | Vance Room

7:00 pm **Small Group Bible Study** | Wahl home. Contact: cgwahl@umich.edu

### THIS WEEK

Wed April 30 **Barclay Bible Study** | 10:30 am | Vance Room

Fri May 2 **Men's Study Group** | 8:45 am | Curtis Room

Sat May 3 **Sack Lunch Assembly** | 10:00 am | Social Hall

# Announcements

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## ADULTS

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### **Two-Part Series with Mark Borst: When Faith Takes Form Between Mature Ministries (May 1) and Exploring the Faith (May 4)**

Join us for a special two-part conversation led by Mark Borst, exploring the intersection of faith, architecture, and community life in a changing religious landscape. With deep roots in the Reformed tradition and a career in design and client strategy, Mark invites us to reimagine what our buildings—and our gatherings—say about who we are and who we are becoming.

#### **Part I: Gone for Good?** MATURE MINISTRIES LUNCH & LEARN THURSDAY, MAY 1 NOON, SOCIAL HALL

It is estimated that over 100,000 U.S. mainline Protestant churches will close by 2030. What happens to these sacred spaces—and what does *place* still mean in a post-Christian world? Join us for a hopeful exploration of “redemptive placemaking,” grounded in the provocative insights of Mark Elsdon's *Gone for Good?* and the lived experience of communities across the country. Register for lunch at [fpca2.org/matureministries](https://fpca2.org/matureministries)

#### **Part II: When Faith Takes Form** EXPLORING THE FAITH SATURDAY, MAY 4 10:45 AM, LEWIS ROOM

What does it mean for a church to be designed with both architectural and liturgical integrity? And why does that matter today? In this visual and reflective session, Mark takes us through four architecturally significant West Michigan churches and invites conversation on design stewardship,

sacred space, and corporate worship in a time of profound religious change.

#### **Yoga** TUESDAY, MAY 6 5:30 PM | LEWIS ROOM

Yoga returns this spring! Led by Barb Concannon, this Gentle Yoga class is a great way to end your day. There is no fee, but we accept donations that go to First Pres. Bring a water bottle, a yoga mat, and a towel. Bring friends! Open to both church and community.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

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### **Summer Music & Fine Arts Camp** JULY 28–AUGUST 1

Rising 2nd - 9th graders are invited to join us for an exciting week at our Summer Music & Fine Arts Camp, featuring the musical *Elijah*. Camp runs daily from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, culminating in a special Musical Proclamation during worship on Sunday, August 3. Register: [fpca2.org](https://fpca2.org)

## SERVE

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### **Habitat for Humanity – Volunteers Needed!**

The House of Faith build is back, and First Pres is looking for volunteers! This year's house is at 423 Ainsworth Circle, Ypsilanti, and we have multiple opportunities to serve:

**Build Days:** May 10, and August 9  
**Lunch Providers Needed:** May 10 (deliver by 11:45 AM)

**Important:** Volunteers must be 18+ (16+ with an adult). Sign up is required by the Monday before your shift.

**Sign up here:** <https://givepul.se/whyidq> (Access code: 1stPresAA)

**Mission Partnership Tour:  
House by the Side of the Road**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Join us on Wednesday, April 30, for a special tour of House by the Side of the Road, one of our local mission partners. This vital organization provides clothing and household essentials to neighbors in need throughout Washtenaw County. Come see their impact firsthand and learn how you can support their work. Register: [fpca2.org](http://fpca2.org)

**Sack Lunch Assembly for Hope Clinic**

SATURDAY, MAY 3  
10 AM, SOCIAL HALL

Donate items and assemble sack lunches for Hope Clinic, providing nutritious meals to those in need. Sign up online at [fpca2.org](http://fpca2.org).

**Greeters Needed**

Bring your smile and "Hello" and help us greet people to worship at First Pres. Stand at a door and offer a hearty welcome. Sign up here: [fpca2.org/church](http://fpca2.org/church)

**Food Donations on Communion Sunday**

SUNDAY, MAY 4

On the first Sunday of each month, we invite you to help those facing food insecurity in our Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County community by donating non-perishable food (and other essentials) to benefit our local partner, Food Gatherers. Bring the items to worship to drop in the shopping cart during the last hymn or drop off items in the Welcome Center.

WORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Taizé Service of Wholeness and Healing**

TUESDAY, MAY 6  
7:00 PM, MONTEITH HALL

Experience a peaceful evening of meditative worship through the music, silence, and prayer of Taizé. This special service invites rest, reflection, and spiritual healing. Deacons and Stephen Ministers will be present for this service of wholeness and healing. All are welcome.

YOUTH \_\_\_\_\_

**Spring Youth Group Olympics**

SUNDAY, APRIL 27  
6:00 PM, FINNANE HOME

All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to join us for a special evening of games and fellowship at the Finnane residence. We'll meet from 6-7:30 pm and dinner will be provided. We hope to see you there, if you have any questions or need the address, please email Pastor Mark ([mmares@fpca2.org](mailto:mmares@fpca2.org)).

**WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME**

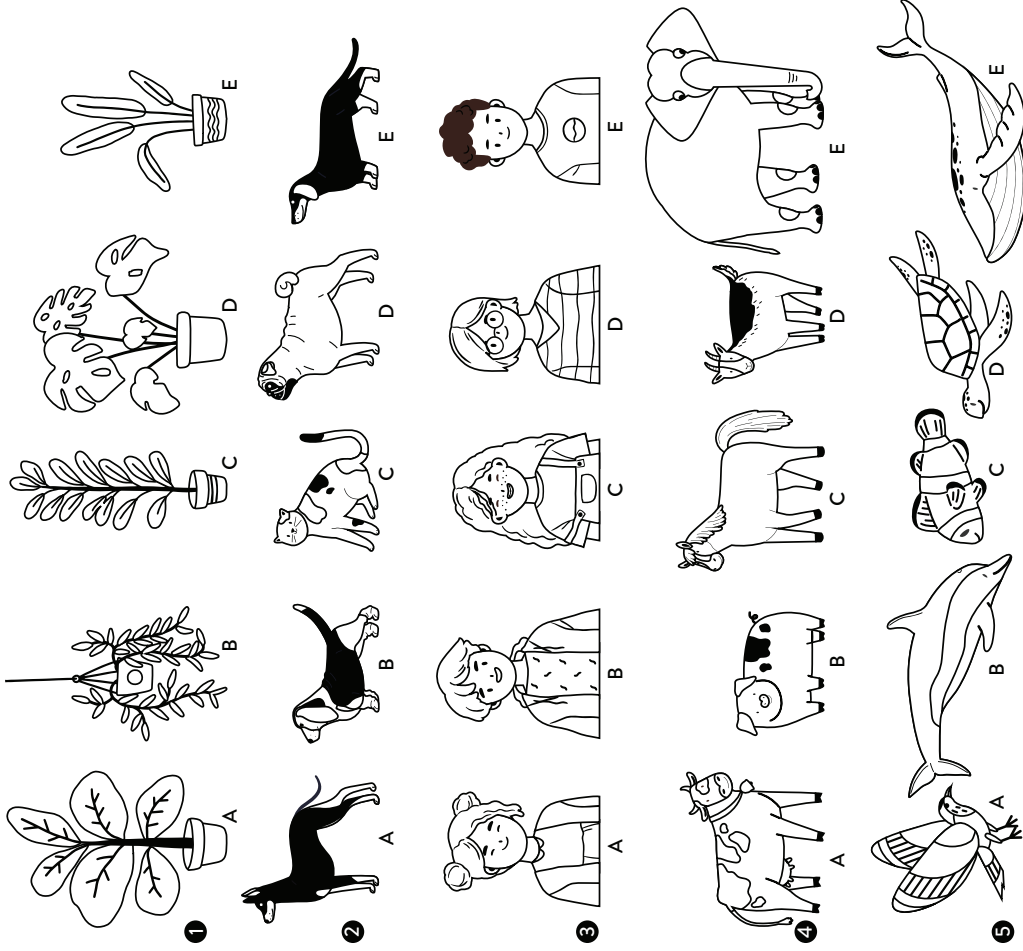
God is bigger than our language can ever describe. When we limit God, we restrict God's creative expression in the world and who we are made in the image of God. Each person, with all they are, is a reflection of the creative nature of God. Diversity is what creation is all about and is to be celebrated.

- Go to a zoo, aquarium, botanical garden, forest, beach, park, or anywhere you can see the vast diversity of God's creation. Look for the big and small and in between. Notice what's wildly creative in color, shape, size, or other features. Praise God for such an amazing world!
- Make a list of differences and similarities in your family. Take turns having a family member choose one difference and one similarity to celebrate each day. It might be a favorite food or game to play. It could be that everyone loves the color green and the day is spent celebrating green things! Be creative.
- Read *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox (Clarion Books, 2006) or watch the YouTube video "Read-Aloud of Whoever You Are by Mem Fox" ([bit.ly/EMWhoeverYouAre](https://bit.ly/EMWhoeverYouAre), 3:07). Talk together about the things that may be different and the things that are the same about people and wonder why differences and similarities are each important in our world.

God of us all, thank you for the gift of creation and the vast diversity you gave the world, its creatures, and us. May we appreciate and celebrate our differences and similarities. Amen.

Note: [bit.ly](https://bit.ly) addresses are case-sensitive.

Can you find the similarities in each row? Which one(s) in each row is different?



1. plants; 2. B is hanging; 3. cats; 4. animals; 5. creatures; A lives above water, E has dark hair; 4. animals; E does not live on a farm; 5. creatures; A lives above water.