

*The Glorious Sounds
of Christmas*

Sunday, December 12

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church

*A festive Christmas Concert
featuring Children's Choir,
Sanctus Ringers, and Chancel Choir*

Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt
Accompanist / Pianist
Rev. Megan Berry
Resident Minister
Barbara DeLancey
Parish Nurse
David Hufford
Organist
Rev. Hannah Lundberg
Resident Minister
Rev. Mark Mares
Minister of Youth & Families
Rev. Evans McGowan
Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Stacey Pakela
Parish Nurse
Shayla Powell
Children's Choir Director
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Associate Pastor
Rev. Jay Sanderford
Associate Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport
Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer
Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Rev. Matthew J. Warfield
Resident Minister



Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew
Administrative Assistant
Nick Dibacco-Vaidya
Finance Assistant
Pat Gilbreath
Welcome Center Coordinator
Almer Harris
Maintenance Specialist
Kathy Houser
Technology Coordinator
Diane Knibbs
Administrative Assistant
Anna Miller
Finance Manager
Allie Milot
Communications Coordinator
Adrian Prundeanu
Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson
Office Manager

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 5, 2021 • 8:00 a.m.



Awake My Soul
Mike Moyers



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Emmanuel Comes

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on God's people and redeemed them.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

* HYMN 314

Christ, Be Our Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You witness the sorts of lives we lead, Approaching God. Asked to share the gospel of hope, we place it on our to-do list instead. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray with joy in every moment, we prefer to grumble about every insignificant thing in our lives. Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for Your forgiveness to have its way in them. Fill us with Your hope so we might lighten the shadows of others...

SILENT PRAYER

Our monthly Taizé Prayer Service is this Tuesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall.

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning online. If you have a prayer request, use this form by Sunday evening: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/prayer-request/>.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee meets weekly and is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>. We may be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org.

Poinsettias for Christmas. If you wish to donate a poinsettia to beautify our December 19 and December 24 worship services, the cost is \$20. You can donate in memory or honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be delivered to those in need by our Deacons following those services. Thank you for your donation! The deadline is Sunday, December 12, at midnight. Sign up either online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w1w3mdbe1sxyhze/> or in the Main Office.

Our annual Nativity Service has a new date and time this year. It will be on Sunday, December 19, at 11:15 a.m. All children ages 3 and older are invited to participate. Children who are comfortable reading are encouraged to sign up as scripture readers. There are also non-speaking parts for a multitude of children: Star Bearers, Angels, Shepherds and Magi. The parent information meeting is next Sunday, December 5, at 10:45 a.m., in our Family Space (room 301). Please sign up to participate using this link: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/nativity-worship-pageant-registration/>.

Christmas Eve Worship

A Service of Lessons & Carols
5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service
11:00 p.m.

Additional Worship Services

The Longest Night
Tuesday, December 21
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 26
Family Worship Service
9:30 a.m.
This is the only service on December 26.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Advent Mission Event is TODAY, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m, in the Social Hall. Join us for a First Sunday special intergenerational mission event with Rise Against Hunger as we pack 10,000+ meals for those in need. Donations are welcomed to help fund the cost of the meals. Contact Rev. McGowan (emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. Donate here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchofAnnArbor>.

Mature Singles meet on Friday nights. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

Our December Communion Food Donations and Financial Contributions support Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County.

As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to our neighbors in need. Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Personal Care items are of particular need since they cannot be purchased with Bridge Cards. The most needed food items include low sodium soups, canned meats and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, nut butters, jelly, baby food and formula, and Ensure or other nutritional supplement drinks. The most needed personal care items are diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors. Donations will be coordinated by T2A2, our Young Adult Ministry.

Making God's Love Visible, Peace by Piece Stewardship Update. Thank you to all who have returned your pledge and Opportunity to Serve forms. As of November 30, we have 328 pledges for \$1,237,411, 75.1% of our goal. Every pledge counts. We do expect expenses to rise in unpredictable ways next year. It's not too late to pledge so we can continue to grow the worship, mission and programs of First Pres. Pledge forms are available in the Church Office or online at firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate/stewardship-2022.

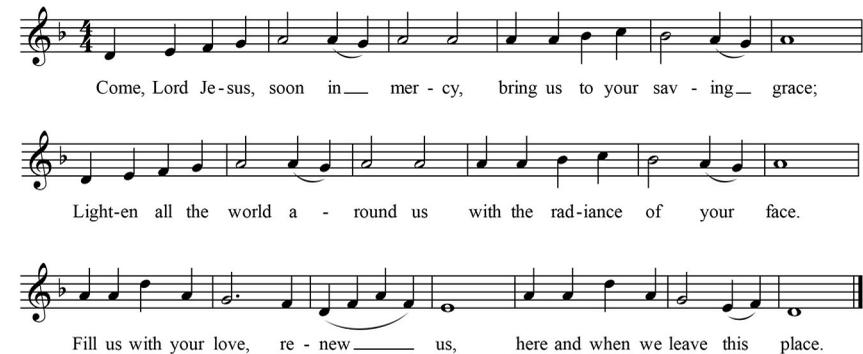
Visit our new art exhibit "Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic" by Christina Saj.

"Finding Sanctuary" is displayed in the Social Hall. This body of work takes shape from the circles on which they are painted. The Pandemic collection seeks solace in aesthetics, delivering hope and faith through image, form, and color. Its intention is for each painting to bloom in our collective gardens, offering glittering rays of sunshine, the echo of children's laughter, a burst of flowers to sustain us through these tragic times. Christina Saj is a contemporary artist whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern.

To see more of her work please visit <http://www.saj.art>.

KYRIE

PICARDY



Come, Lord Je-sus, soon in— mer - cy, bring us to your sav - ing— grace;

Light-en all the world a - round us with the rad-iance of your face.

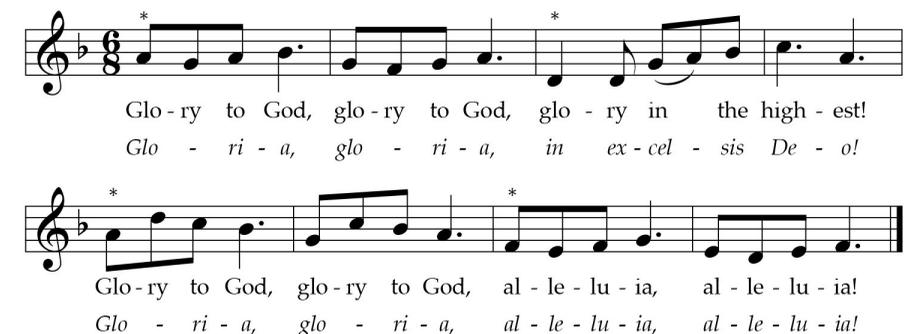
Fill us with your love, re - new — us, here and when we leave this place.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

This Hymn 583, Glory to God (GLORIA).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Malachi 3:1–4
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:68–79
The grass withers, the flower fades;
the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

RESPONDING AND SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory *And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah* G. F. Handel
Chancel Choir Section Leaders
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it
together for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Please see the Communion Card.

SENDING

* **HYMN 109** *Blest Be the God of Israel* MERLE'S TUNE

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**
In the name of Jesus —
Let us Love...**with Open Hearts!**
Let us Learn...**with Open Minds!**
Let us Serve...**with Open Arms!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Craig Curry

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

“Christ, Be Our Light”

We can't see light itself. Instead, we can only catch glimpses of what light illuminates, like the tiny circle of light where the candle glows. We see the reflections – a face looking up to us or the beam of a flashlight cutting through the haze. In John, Jesus says that he is the Light of the World, and this is part of what he is saying. He is beyond our field of vision, but in the darkness where we stand, we see, because of him, the track that leads us forward is visible. Our Advent and Christmas theme this year reflects our deep longing for light. “Christ, Be Our Light” is our guiding theme and it flows directly from a lovely, singable hymn written by Bernadette Farrell. At the heart of it we sing our Advent desire:

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

Worship Leaders: Liturgist – Megan Berry; Candlelighters – Chancel Choir Section Leaders; Scripture Reader – Nancy Fox; Preacher – Melissa Anne Rogers; Musicians – Chancel Choir Section Leaders; Pianist – Eric Banitt; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Usher – Nancy Fox; Communion Server – Jennifer Day

Use the offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity! Ways to give include online on our First Pres website, via “Text-to-Give” (855-904-1523), using our Vanco Mobile app, putting a check in the mail, or scanning the QR code on the right.



Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Please continue to wear your mask when not actively eating and drinking while remaining in the Social Hall. Cookie bakers are Anne Andrus, Diane Knibbs, and Nancy Tena.

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