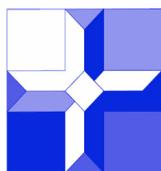


**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 19, 2021 • 9:30 a.m.**



*Visitation*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
Ann Arbor | Michigan  
**Making God's Love Visible**

Please join in reading and singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

#### **Advent 4**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Luke 1:39-42

Here were two women. The one who had given up all hope of ever having children, and the other younger one who had no immediate plans to have a child. Yet, Mary went to Elizabeth with haste, she knew that she needed to see her. And when they met, Elizabeth and, no doubt, Mary were filled with the Holy Spirit. We can only imagine that they flew into each other's arms and at that point they both knew, for certain, that these babies growing within them were no ordinary babies.

**The Prayer of Confession** is adapted from *The Soft Petals of Grace: Communion Liturgies and Other Resources* by Thom M. Shuman.

## GATHERING

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. McDonald/Nelson  
Benjamin Francisco, Cello

### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

#### HANDBELL INTROIT

*Joy*  
Sanctus Ringers

Louise Frier

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!  
Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name."

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

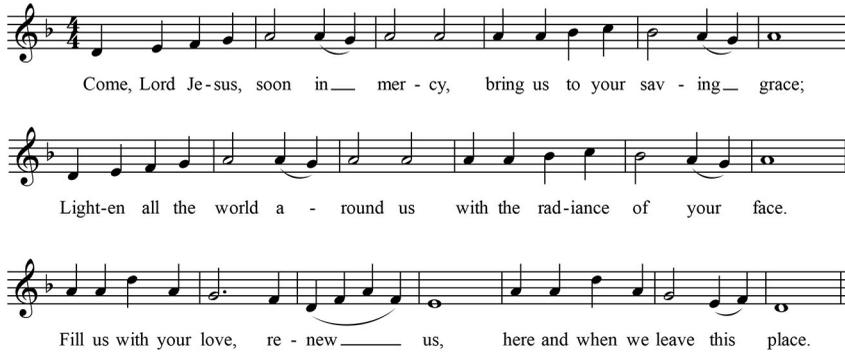
#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God who is coming to us, forgive us  
when our hectic lives hide your presence;  
when the tinsel of Christmas means more to us than your truth;  
when our hearts of stone resist the pain and brokenness around us;  
when we care more about what gifts to buy  
than the damage we do to your creation and to your children.  
Have mercy on us, healing God,  
so we might tear down the walls we have built to keep your love away  
and seek your justice for our human family,  
so our hearts become candles for your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus  
Christ ...**

### SILENT PRAYER

## 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

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

This is the refrain of Hymn 113, *Angels We Have Heard on High* (GLORIA).

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

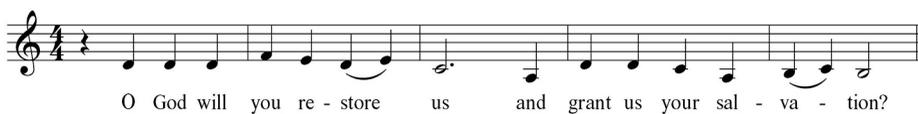
### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 80:1–7

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### HYMN OF PREPARATION *O God, Will You Restore Us?* Isaac Wardell

*Please join in singing the refrain:*



O God will you re - store us and grant us your sal - va - tion?

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39–55

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

### SERMON *Do You Hear the People Sing?*

## RESPONDING

ANTHEM *Magnificat* David Hufford  
Abby Peterson, soloist

**The Advent Wreath** – four candles (three blue, one rose) in a perfect circle of evergreen symbolizing the eternity of God – helps us to “keep our lamps trimmed and burning” as we anticipate the coming of Christ, symbolized by the large white candle in the center.

**Advent Paraments for both the Sanctuary and Monteith Hall and Stoles** were designed and made by quilter and artist, Beth Taylor of Durham, NC.

**Paper lace banners** for Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary were designed by artist Ellen Phillips of Black Mountain, NC. Thanks go to Ellen and to the FPC members who helped cut them.

**This week's Growing in God's Love Bible story**, "Surprise Visitors," is found on page 192.

**Worship Lab**, a hands-on experience for our youngest disciples, is a place where children can ask questions and dig deeper into the various parts of Presbyterian Worship. Children learn what they have to offer as they discover and understand their place in the Body of Christ on Sunday mornings. Worship Lab immediately follows A Conversation with Young Disciples.

**Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love – and to consider your own response in loving service.**

**Ways to give:** click [online at our First Pres website](#) ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



**During the season of Advent, the Organ Voluntaries** are featuring a variety of Trumpet Tunes in joyful anticipation of our Savior's birth.

**Children's Choir** will rehearse today at 10:30. Please meet Ms. Powell at the pulpit door.

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My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden;  
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For He that is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is on those who fear Him from one generation to another.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has put down the mighty from their seats,  
and has exalted the humble and meek.  
He has filled the hungry with good things;  
And the rich He has sent empty away.  
He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel,  
As He promised to our forefathers, to Abraham and his seed forever!  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

**Offertory**

*O Come, Emmanuel*

Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir and Benjamin Francisco, Cello

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

O come thou Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine Advent here,  
And drive away the shades of night,  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!  
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, Desire of nations, bind  
All people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,  
And fill the world with Heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

\* **Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free;  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
and fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 100

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

\* 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

*Trumpet Tune and Chorale in D Major*

David Hufford

*Please remain seated until the conclusion of the closing voluntary.*

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## 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.*

**We are glad you are here!** Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshiping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l> to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website.

**Worship Leaders:** Welcome – Melissa Anne Rogers; Candlelighters – The Stelter Family; Liturgists – Hannah Lundberg, Megan Berry, and Evans McGowan; Scripture Reader – Ava Westfall; Children’s Message – Megan Berry; Preacher – Mark Mares; Musicians – Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Greeters – Ginny Horan and John and Dawn Pankopf; Ushers – Paul Smith (captain), Beth Gerwig, Carol Smith, Ken, Ali, and Ava Westfall, and Angela Yang; Welcome Center Volunteers – Jennifer Kunec and Prue Heikkinen

**The PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering** is received today. Half of our gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. Half of our gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please give generously.

**The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillemonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are Meg Brown and Nancy Oliver. “Faith is the power line, but prayer switches it on.” —Reinhard Bonnke

**Please join us following the Closing Voluntary for a warm cup of cheer on the Front Lawn as we prepare for the retelling of the Nativity at 11:15.** All of the favorite toppings for the best cup of coffee, cocoa, or a mocha are available with delicious cookies from our wonderful First Pres Cookie Bakers. No one will mind if you sneak some extra marshmallows! As you finish up your treats, you’ll be welcomed back into the Sanctuary by the ringing of a bell, just in time to hear the best story ever told! **Cookie bakers** are Marlene Stoeffler and Dawn and John Pankopf.

## TODAY @ 11:00

**Our annual Nativity Service** is in the Sanctuary at 11:15. All are invited to join the children and youth in this worship service which includes a nativity pageant. Please enjoy the Hot Cocoa, Coffee, and Cookie Bar on the Front Lawn immediately following the 9:30 service, and then return to the Sanctuary by 11:15.

**The Bible at 11 o'clock** (Curtis Room and Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117387186>)  
All are welcome to join our study of Isaiah led by Rev. Ed Koster.

**Exploring the Faith and First Friends** (Lewis Room)  
Video and discussion of Amy-Jill Levine's "Light of the World: Advent."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Hark! Assistive Listening Devices are available!** We have refreshed our supply of Assistive Listening Devices that connect directly to the Sanctuary sound system to make sure you get a clear personal audio signal. We have units with ear speakers (one ear) or you can use your personal headphone or earbuds. We also have some units paired with an over-the-neck "Loop" for listeners with telecoil-equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants. Ask your usher to sign out a device for use during service and to return the device.

**Radio Listeners, Let Us Hear from You!** A new working group has been formed at First Pres to better understand the dynamics of our Sunday morning radio broadcasts. Barbara Mueller (Congregational Life), Haley Brown (Worship Committee), and Brad Taylor (Deacons) have volunteered to lead this effort. A critical part of this undertaking will be to get a better picture of our radio audience and to understand what the broadcasts mean to them. We'd like to conduct interviews with at least a dozen First Pres radio listeners. If you're a regular radio broadcast listener and would be willing to speak to a member of our working group, please call the church office (662-4466) and volunteer to talk. We're all ears!

**Our December Food Donations and Financial Contributions support Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County.** Non-perishable food and personal care items may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Donations will be coordinated by T2A2, our Young Adult Ministry.

**Visit our new art exhibit "Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic" by contemporary artist Christina Saj, whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern.** "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. To see more of the artist's work please visit <http://www.saj.art>. The artwork is for sale for \$225.00 apiece. The Sacred Music Fund will receive 40% of all sales.

**A long-standing First Pres holiday tradition** is to give a gift of warm clothing to meal guests at the Delonis Homeless Shelter. At the suggestion of the Shelter, our Local Mission Committee will give a pair of warm winter gloves to each meal guest before Christmas.

**Greetings, College Students!** We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Contact Rev. McGowan ([campus@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:campus@firstpresbyterian.org)) to grab a cup of coffee or for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

**Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women.** There are several monthly Bible studies that all women of the church are welcome to attend. Contact Meg Brown ([lmegbrown@gmail.com](mailto:lmegbrown@gmail.com)) for more information. PW sends out timely information in email blasts so that all women of the church may stay connected. Let Meg know if you would like to be added to the email list.

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

**The Prayer Team** meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. Use this form by Sunday evening to request prayer for yourself and others: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/prayer-request/>. If you would like to join this group, email Rev. Rogers ([mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org)) for information and the link. For those in worship today, to share a prayer today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.

**"Amazing Stuff: God's Gift for Growing Up"** class for fourth and fifth graders, will meet Sundays, January 9, 16, and 23, and February 6, 13, and 20, at 4:00 p.m. There will be no class on Sunday, January 30, the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting. This six-week course offers wonderful information for child and parent alike as your family begins navigating the physical and emotional changes of preteen/teen years with a faithful approach. We have a magnificent team of teachers comprised of nurses and doctors who are members of First Pres. There is a concurrent class for parents whose children are enrolled in "Amazing Stuff" that meets at the same time in a different room. To register or for additional information, contact Beca Torres-Davenport at 662-4466, ext. 342, or [btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:btorres-davenport@firstpresbyterian.org).

**The church building will be closed** Monday, December 27, and Monday, January 3.

**Mature Singles** meet on Friday nights and will gather for a New Year's Potluck on January 1, at 1:00. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

**T2A2 Small Group** meets off-site at 7:00 tonight. All in their twenties and thirties are welcome to come and build community with us as we share meaningful conversations and reflect on the Word together. For more information, email [t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org).

**The next Stephen Ministry Continuing Education presentation** will be a Zoom presentation at 7:00 p.m., on January 10. Dr. Peg Talburtt will discuss the topic "Human Trafficking: what it is and what you can do about it." Dr. Talburtt recently retired as Executive Director of the Lovelight Foundation, a private women's foundation that has funded a number of projects in the field of human trafficking, particularly those having to do with child sex trafficking in the United States. This is an issue she has followed for decades since she worked with a group of teen girl grant makers who believed trafficked teens was a REAL issue. Peg is a current member of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, chairs the Resource Committee of the Michigan Attorney General's Michigan Human Trafficking Commission and is a community leader for MAP-Ann Arbor, an anti-trafficking volunteer organization. All are invited to participate in the presentation.

**Mature Ministries Lunch & Learn: Discover Detroit's Lost Black Neighborhood** on Thursday, January 13, at noon, via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5502657984>). Detroit's Black Bottom neighborhood, the area in Detroit where Blacks were legally restricted to live in during much of the city's history, was destroyed as the interstate highway system cut through the city and racial unrest destroyed or compromised much of what remained. Using archival photographs of the neighborhood as her starting point, architect Emily Kutil created an exhibition that recreated the neighborhood visually and drew former residents to visit, reconnect, and share stories of the vibrant life of this community. Ms. Kutil, Assistant Professor of Architecture at Lawrence Technological University, will be our featured speaker. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers.

**Year-End Finance Information:** Please support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church with your year-end gifts. The IRS requires that books for 2021 be closed on December 31. Make sure your donation is postmarked by December 31 for your contribution to be applied to your 2021 financial statement. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year. A new authorization form, available on our website and in the Finance Office, must be filled out annually. **2022 Contribution Envelopes**, for those who requested them, are available outside the Finance Office December 17–26. Any envelopes not picked up will be mailed on December 27.

**Making God's Love Visible, Peace by Piece Stewardship Update:** As of December 13, 373 pledges totaling \$1,340,295 have been received. This represents 81.3% of our goal. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help as we plan the 2022 budget. Your pledges and support make *God's Love Visible* here at First Pres and all the ministries we support, for 195 years and counting. Thank you!



## Upcoming Worship Services

### *The Longest Night Service*

Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

### *Christmas Eve Worship*

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

Candlelight Communion Service, 11:00 p.m.

Our Christmas Eve offering will be used to provide housing for Afghani refugee families. Please give generously!

### *First Sunday of Christmas Family Worship*

December 26, 9:30 a.m.

(This is the only service on December 26.)

**Rotating Shelter returns to First Pres January 3–17.** For these weeks, our church home will be the overnight home to 25 men who otherwise have housing challenges. The RS Committee and First Pres staff are working to comply with Covid protocol and to follow the directives of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. Distancing, testing, and masking will all be used. No hot food will be served but pre-packaged snacks and beverages will be served.

Volunteer opportunities include Evening Host, Overnight Host, snack food donor and driver to breakfast site. These are described on the sign-up page on our website:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4aa8a62ea3fe3-first>. Folks unable to participate in person may want to make a donation of food or of warm, new clothing (original package and tags) clothing. Questions? Call Jim Peggs (734-646-9412) or Marcey Terrien (480-833-7019)



### **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*