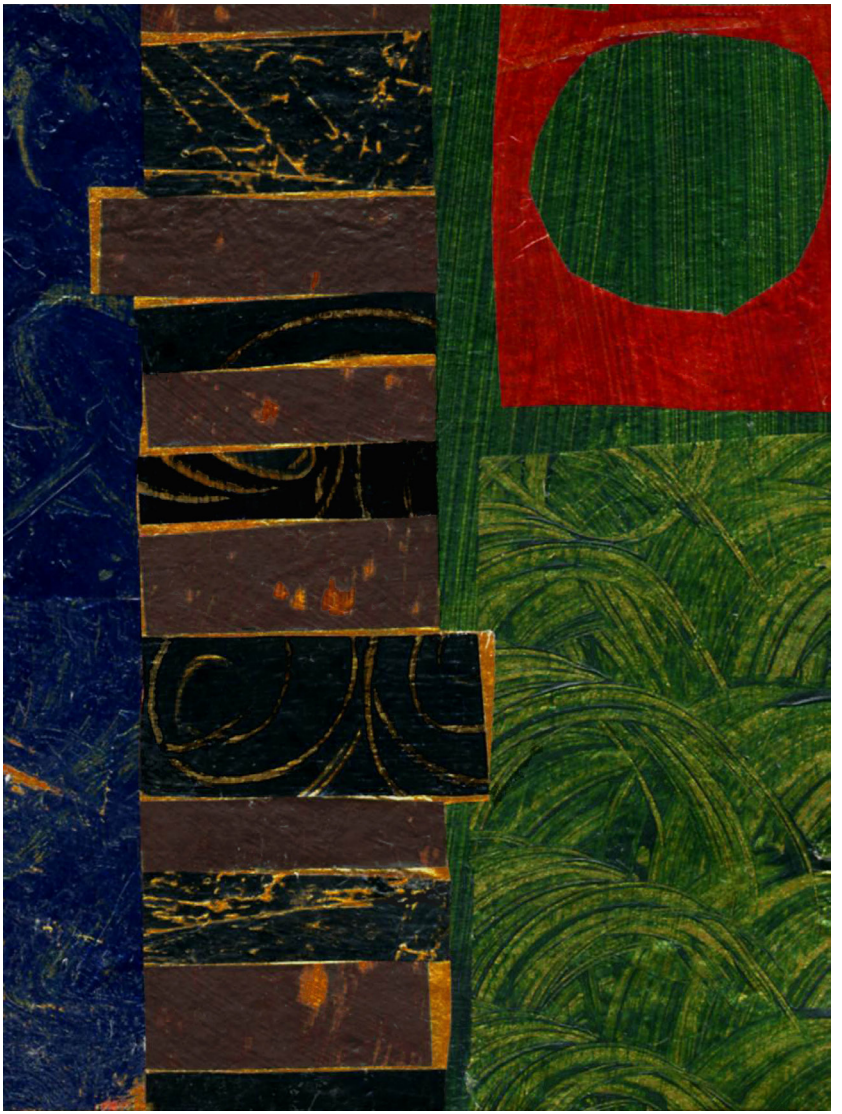
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

SECOND SUNDAY *of* ADVENT

December 4, 2022 • 8:00 a.m.



"Shall Lie Down Together" by Jan Richardson

SECOND SUNDAY *of* ADVENT

December 4, 2022 • 8:00 a.m.

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.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Improvisation, Op. 148, No. 1* H. H. A. Beach

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

FAITH IN ACTION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace...

Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of peace…

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

***HYMN 93** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people.
We confess we do not believe in your incarnation.
We do not pay attention to your word in all that we do and say.
We do not see our neighbors, family and friends
as beloved children you have made.
In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways,
and look up to your power and ability to heal us and raise us up,
so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace....

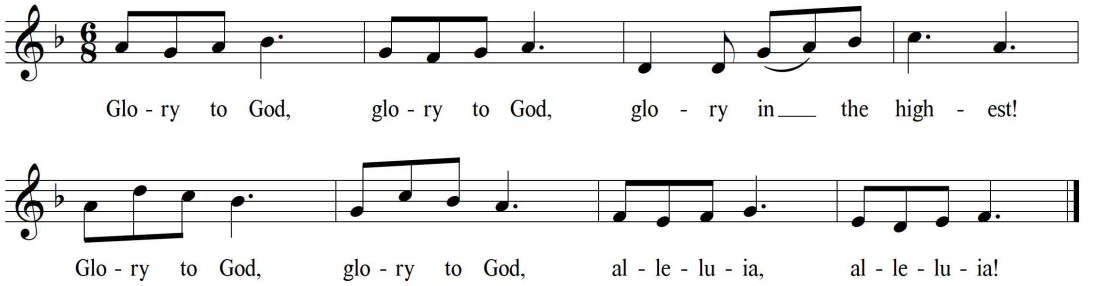
SILENT PRAYER

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** GLORY TO GOD



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-10

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:1-12

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

SERMON *Searching for the Signal*

RESPONDING & SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory *Improvisation, Op. 148, No. 4* H. H. A. Beach

***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**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *Please refer to the Communion Card.*

SENDING

*** HYMN 163** *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice* ABERYSTWYTH

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Improvisation, Op. 148, No. 3* H. H. A. Beach

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Advent Paper-lace Banners were designed by liturgical artist Ellen Phillips and were cut by members of First Pres. Ms. Phillips says: "The designing of banners is more than an art commission, it is a spiritual discipline that begins with the scriptures. The scriptures this Sunday describe The Peaceable Kingdom, a topic that has inspired artists for centuries. I came across an Amish painting that I found delightful, with the gentle lion embracing the happy little lamb and the cow peering over the lion's shoulder. 'They shall neither harm nor destroy on all God's holy mountain.'"

Welcome

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

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.

FIRST-TIME VISITORS AND MEMBERS

Please use the Friendship Pad located in the pew to let us know you joined us in worship or use this QR code to sign our online Friendship Pad.

ONLINE FRIENDSHIP PAD

WORSHIP LEADERS

Faith in Action	David Prentice Hyers	Communion Server	Diane Knibbs
Liturgist	Megan Berry	Candle Lighters	Emily Kuttner
Lector	Diane Knibbs		Bob Orr
Preacher	Jay Sanderford	Welcome Center	Jane Chronis
Pianist	Josh Marzan		
Usher	Marty Reineman		

WAYS TO GIVE

Your gift allows us to carry out our mission as an inclusive and diverse faith community.

Cash/Check
Place in the offering plate or in the mail

Online
https://bit.ly/FPCvanco

Text-to-Give
Text the amount you would like to give to 855-904-1523

Vanco Mobile App

SCAN ME

PRAYER REQUESTS

A pastor will remain at the Communion Table after the service if you are in need of prayer.

Today at First

FIRST SUNDAY

Children, Youth and Adults are invited to our First Sunday event. On the first Sunday of every month, we gather in the Social Hall during the Faith Formation hour to put our faith into practice by extending our love into the community. Today's First Sunday, "Advent Workshop" will be led by Callie Feyen.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Childcare
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Level 1
Ages 5 and young

Children's Choir
10:45 a.m. | Lemon Chapel (Level 3)

Youth Group
6:00 p.m. | Youth Room (Lower Level)

ADULTS

First Friends
11:00 a.m. | Lewis Room (Level 2)
"A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus: A Middle Eastern Understanding." Kenneth E. Bailey. Video and discussion.

Exploring the Faith
11:15 a.m. | Social Hall
Advent Workshop with Callie Feyen

The Bible at 11 o'clock
11:00 a.m. | French Room (Level 1)
A discussion-based class focused on biblical texts. The class is currently reading 2 Corinthians.

UKirk@UMich College Ministry
12:00 p.m. | Off site
We meet for lunch and conversation after worship. For location, contact Hannah Lundberg, *hlundberg@firstpresbyterian.org*

T2A2 Young Adult Group
7:00 p.m. | Off site
Bible study on the Gospel of Luke

Announcements

STEWARDSHIP

A special word of thanks goes out to the more than 332 individuals and families who have already made a 2023 commitment to our Mosaic of Hope Annual Giving Campaign. We continue to make progress; yet we still have ground to cover. As of November 29, we give thanks for the 332 pledges totaling $1,383,259 that have been received. Know that your pledges and contributions will make possible an exciting year of ministry in 2023 with our new Lead Pastor, Rev. David Prentice-Hyers.

All are invited to consider a gift, a financial commitment, a pledge of giving for 2023. You can contribute weekly, monthly or with a planned gift. You can make a commitment, a pledge, knowing that from time to time, circumstances can change, and an adjustment is needed. A portion of our faith is expressed in deliberate practices of giving—and we invite everyone to consider a gift or commitment for 2023.

To fully support our 2023 ministry plans, programs, and worship life, and to align our work with the Strategic Plan, a level of funding beyond the $1.5 million goal is required to bring our budget into balance. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge - or increasing your pledge to make this possible. To make a pledge online, visit *www.firstpresbyterian.org*

CHILDREN

Nativity Service Parent Meeting- TODAY! Join us in the Family Lounge at 11:00 am to learn more about the upcoming Nativity Service. Children ages three and older are invited to participate in the Nativity Service. Children comfortable with reading scripture are encouraged to sign up as readers. There are also non-speaking parts for a multitude of children. Register: *https://bit.ly/FPCPageant*

Rehearsals are Saturday, Dec 10, from 9:30am to noon and a Choir and Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 17 from 9:30 to noon.

MISSION

December Food Collection — Each month we collect food donations and special financial contributions to support a local hunger ministry partner. This month our partner is Food Gatherers. Non-perishable food may be placed in the baskets provided in the Welcome Center on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Donations will be coordinated and delivered by the Local Community Mission Team.

Family to Family and Fostering Futures —The holiday season can be a challenging time for families and individuals in need. You can join First Pres in making God's love visible by helping

local children and families during the Christmas season. This year, First Pres will provide gifts to 40 to 50 families referred by the Washtenaw County Department of Health and Human Services through Family to Family Christmas and 40 children through local non-profit Fostering Futures. To learn how you can help, visit *firstpresbyterian.org.*

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. To give to this offering, use the specially marked pew envelopes or visit

Rotating Shelter at First Pres January 2 - 16, 2023—For two weeks, our church will become the overnight home for up to 20 men who have housing challenges. Volunteer opportunities are available to host, donate food or clothing, and drive men to breakfast. Sign up now to volunteer: *bit.ly/FPC_RotatingShelter.* Questions: Contact Jim Peggs (734-646-9412) or Marcey Terrien (480-833-7019)

CHURCHWIDE

Poinsettias for Christmas. If you wish to donate a poinsettia to beautify our December 18 and December 24 worship services, the cost is $15. 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! Sign up either online at *bit.ly/FPCPoinsettia* or in the Church Office. The deadline for purchasing one is Sunday, December 11.

ADULTS

Mature Ministries — Our monthly Lunch and Learn is Thursday, December 15, at Noon. Sign up in the Church Office for a holiday lunch and presentation from the founders of the Santa School in Midland, Michigan, and hear from our own Brad Taylor, a recent graduate. A hot lunch is $8, but the singing of holidays classics is free!

Scan with your phone
to visit our website

First Presbyterian Church
1432 Washtenaw Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734 · 662 · 4466
info@firstpresbyterian.org
firstpresbyterian.org
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