

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

December 24, 2019 • 11:00 p.m.



Starry, Starry Night by John Stuart



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

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

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

Hearing-assistance devices and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

The Advent Wreath has accompanied us through the four weeks of the season of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. The four candles—kindled with our prayers for hope, peace, joy and love—greet us tonight as we gather to welcome the Light of Christ in the center of the perfect evergreen circle symbolizing the living eternity of God.

Cover art is *Starry, Starry Night* by John Stuart, a Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee.

Welcome to all! A special welcome to guests and newcomers. Let us know of your presence by signing the red fellowship pad which is at the end of each pew. Please introduce yourself to a minister after the service.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

<i>As the music begins, let the time and the music help to center you for worship.</i>	
<i>We Three Kings</i>	arr. Richard Price
<i>The Holly and the Ivy</i>	arr. Richard Price
<i>Carol of the Bells</i>	arr. Richard Price
<i>What Is This Lovely Fragrance</i>	Paul Manz
<i>Canzona per Sonare #2</i>	Giovanni Gabrieli
<i>Still, Still, Still</i>	Paul Manz
<i>I Saw Three Ships</i>	arr. Canadian Brass
<i>Ding Dong Merrily on High</i>	arr. Canadian Brass

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. McGowan

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
You have increased the joy of the nation as with joy at the harvest—
For the yoke of their burden, and the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken.

All: For to us a child has been born; to us a son has been given.

One: Authority shall rest upon his shoulders, and he shall be called

**All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

One: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

* **CAROL 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God—in the darkest time of the year
we gather to hear again an ancient story—
to listen for tidings of comfort and joy in the night air,
to make our way through the cold to a place of birth.**

**In a time of anxiety and anguish,
we gather in this beloved Light to be healed of fear and anger,
to practice believing your promise of peace and goodwill on earth.**

**In the quiet splendor of this night,
whisper to us between all the familiar words and cadences.**

**And when we have received these treasures of song and story,
send us home by a different way—
to plant hope even in the chill earth,
to kindle light even in the darkest time,
to create peace even where we can scarcely imagine it—
for we pray in the name of the One
whose birth brings us back to life. Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 3 (selected verses)

CAROLAdam Lay YboundenFrank BolesChancel ChoirAdam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond:Four thousand winter thought he not too long.Deo gracias!And all was for an apple,An apple that he took,As clerkes finden written in their book.Deo gracias!Ne had the apple taken been,The apple taken been.Ne had never our lady abeen heavnè queen.Deo gracias!Blessed be the timeThat apple taken was.Therefore we moun singen.Deo gracias!

SECOND READINGIsaiah 40:1–11Andrew Frazier

* CAROL 144In the Bleak MidwinterCRANHAM

THIRD READINGLuke 2:1–20Rev. Johnson

CAROLThe Shepherds SingBob ChilcottChancel Choir; Hannah Sparrow, soloist; Andrew Wilson, trumpetThe shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?My God, my God, no hymn for thee?My soul's a shepherd too;A flock it feeds, of thoughts,And words and deeds.The pasture is thy word;The streams, thy grace enriching all,All the place.Shepherds and flock shall sing, shall sing,And all my powers out-sing the daylight hours.Then we will sing, and shine on our own day,And one another pay.My music shine.Then we will sing.His beams shall cheer my breast,And both so twine,Till even his beams sing, and my music shine.

FOURTH READINGJohn 1 (selected verses)Rev. Mares(The Christ Candle is lit, and a moment of silence is kept.)One: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.All: And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.And from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

MEDITATIONFrom the InsideRev. Dr. Spalding

* CAROL 145What Child Is This?GREENSLEVES

Advent Paper-lace Banners were designed by liturgical artist Ellen Phillips and were cut by members of First Pres.

The banners for the first week of Advent reflect the hope that the Messiah will come and that the darkness will fade. The only thing that can be identified are the rays of a slowly rising sun.

The banners for the second week of Advent refer to The Peaceable Kingdom in which a gentle lion embraces a happy lamb as a cow peers over the lion's shoulder.

The third Sunday of Advent is about gladness and joy. The stars seem to dance and sprouts of water spray out over the desert in an expression of total joy felt by the redeemed as well as by the very earth itself.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the figure of Mary, ready to give birth, is front and center. This birth, this physical incarnation of God with us, celebrates the fullness of God's love. With Mary, we all anticipate the coming Messiah.

During the offering, take a minute to sign the friendship pads found in each pew. If you are visiting with us, please leave your contact information so that we can reach out to you! Newcomers and regulars alike can see who is sitting around them and greet each other by name. By signing in, you help us build stronger community connections at First Presbyterian.

The Christmas Eve Offering will support two local living communities for special needs adults: Intentional Communities of Washtenaw and His Eye Is on the Sparrow. First Pres is blessed to have six young adults with special needs who have grown up in our church and are active members of our “Promises” group. Many of them either live in one of these two communities or are supported by them in other ways.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Rogers and Rev. Sanderford

Offertory

Born of Light and Love Eternal

arr. Edwin Childs

Men of Chancel Choir

text: Richard Spalding

Born of love and light eternal,
E'er the worlds began to be,
Now the Word is breathed among us,
Robed in flesh for all to see.
Now the majesty of Heaven
Lies in deep humility –
Evermore and evermore!

Angels, sing your starry anthems;
Mother's love, be bold and pure;
Sages, spill your costly treasures –
Still, a birth so cold, so poor.
So the heart of God is open:
Tender love, salvation sure –
Evermore and evermore!

Now the Light is sown among us,
Mark of Heaven's ceaseless care –
Still enlivening our darkness,
Still creating everywhere.
Grace and truth now dwell beside us,
And, in time, our pain will bear –
Evermore and evermore!

Sovereign, Spirit, Light, Redeemer,
Word of Heaven, Child of earth,
Source and end of all our living,
Bring our waiting hearts to birth!
Praise and thanks and prayer we offer,
Sacred song and holy mirth –
Evermore and evermore!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Rogers and Rev. Sanderford

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.


All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 of the People

All communion cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are located in the center cup on each wafer tray.

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut adnimalia viderent Dominum
natum, jacentum in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery,
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals shoud see the new-
born Lord, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the
Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Prayer After Communion

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The ministers light the first candle in each pew. Each person will light the candle of the next worshiper. Please keep the lighted candle upright when sharing the light.

Carol Sing

Please remain seated.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin’s tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep
While angel hosts from heaven come winging,
Sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

This is Carol 124, *Still, Still, Still* (STILL, STILL, STILL).



It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the evercircling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

This is Carol 123, *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (CAROL).



<p>Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.</p> <p>Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.</p> <p>Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.</p> <p>Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.</p> <p><i>This is Carol 122, Silent Night, Holy Night! (STILLE NACHT).</i></p>		
* BENEDICTION		
<p><i>Please extinguish your candle after the benediction and before leaving your pew. Carry the light of the Christ child in your hearts and know the blessing of Emmanuel, God with us.</i></p>		
* CAROL 134	<i>Joy to the World</i>	ANTIOCH
<p><i>Please sing stanzas 1 and 4.</i></p>		
* CLOSING VOLUNTARY	<i>Aria in E-flat Major HWV 410</i>	G. F. Handel arr. Keith Terrett

WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON THIS HOLY NIGHT!
Please know that all, including visitors and newcomers, are invited to share fully in the life and activities of this congregation. A full description of church events can always be found online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

Worship leadership includes the Reverend Dr. Richard Spalding; the Reverends Melissa Anne Rogers, Jay Sanderford, Evans McGowan, Mark Mares, Khayla Johnson, and Amy Ruhf; and Resident Minister Andrew Frazer. **Musical leadership** includes Alexander Wilson, trumpet; Jonathan Fontan, trumpet; Lorenzo Robb, horn; Joseph McInchak, trombone; Martha Farmer, bass trombone; Anna Nicklas, timpani; Hannah Sparrow, soloist; and Chancel Choir.

Ushers are Bill Austin (head), Holly Majorprice (captain), Keith Molin, Beth Sanderford, Nancy Fox, Jeannette and Barry Swartz, Brian Grady, and Renee, Jim, and Aedan Mulcrone. We give special thanks to Lead Usher Captain and Recruiter Paul Smith.

IN COMING DAYS

The church building will be closed Wednesday, December 25, and Wednesday, January 1. The building will close at 4:00 p.m. on December 26 –29 and 31.

Next Sunday, December 29, we have one Family Service at 10:00 a.m. Before the service, join us for coffee and treats to celebrate the year's end in the Lounge, just outside the pulpit door, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Year-End Finance Information: Please support First Presbyterian Church ministries with your year-end gifts. The IRS requires that books for 2019 be closed on December 31. Your donation must be postmarked by December 31 for your contribution to be applied to your 2019 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. 2020 Contribution Envelopes, for those who requested them, are available outside the Finance Office.

IN THE NEW YEAR

There is a new worship opportunity in 2020. Beginning Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall, there will be a monthly Taizé Prayer Service. This service will include songs, scripture, silence, meditation, and candles. All are welcome! A simple supper of soup and bread will be served in the Social Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted for this meal.

Join a choir in 2020! There are many opportunities for you to participate in a choir or musical ensemble at FPC. Children's Choir, Youth Choir (Youth + Creative Arts), Chancel Choir, Sanctus Ringers, Church Orchestra, and a new daytime bell choir for beginners (Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m., beginning Jan. 21), and the Liturgical/Visual Arts team. For more information, contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts at dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org.

The Men's Study Group will meet Friday, January 3, continue meeting the first and third Friday mornings until May from 8:00–9:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room for coffee, study, and conversation. The winter book is *Short Stories by Jesus*, written by Amy-Jill Levine. All are welcome! Books are available in the Church Office for \$15.00. Questions? Contact Rev. Sanderford.

Upcoming Opportunities to Join First Pres! We hope that you feel moved to become a member of our church family. Everyone belongs! Attend a class on March 15 (with joining on March 22) or on May 3 (with joining on May 17). For more info, contact Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org; 355-2351).

Mature Ministries (60 and up) hosts a lunch and learn on January 9 at Noon in the Social Hall. The topic is "Creating a Dementia-free Community." James Mangi will be our speaker. For \$5 you will have a delicious hot lunch with 40 or more interesting friends! To sign up, call the Church Office or contact Rev. Rogers. All are welcome — even those younger than 60 who are dealing with aging parents or others in their life with memory loss. Upcoming Opportunities to Join First Pres! We hope that you feel moved to become a member of our church family. Everyone belongs! Join formally on these dates: March 15 (with joining on March 22) and May 3 (with joining on May 17). For more info, contact Rev. Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org, or 355-2351.

Please join us for the Congregational Meeting and All-Church Luncheon on Sunday, January 26. Worship with us at 8:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. that day, then attend the meeting which occurs at 10:30 a.m., in the Social Hall. Guests are welcome to stay and hear about the ministries, programs, and financial health of the church, but members only have vote and voice. A roast chicken lunch follows in the Social Hall. The cost is \$10 a person, and children ages 5–12 are \$5. Children under the age of 5 eat for free. We request you make a reservation in our Church Office, or online at our church website.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Liz Call-Boyce, Finance Assistant

Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister

Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator

Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant

Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator

Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families

Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Merry Muilenberg, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Reverend Dr. Richard Spalding, Interim Pastor

Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator & Parish Nurse

Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts



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