



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

SECOND SUNDAY *of* ADVENT
December 10, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.



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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 *Carillon for Advent*
Sanctus Ringers

H. Dean Wagner

POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

BELL PEAL

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Today, we light the candle of peace as we await the Prince of Peace.
Our hearts sing of the day He will bring.
Like a shepherd, He will feed His flock,
gather the lambs in His arms, and gently lead the mother sheep.
In the radiant light of hope and of peace,
let us prepare the way of the Lord!

* HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Great God of peace,
We confess that we are rarely peaceful people.
Nations rage from age to age
yet we fail to make rough places smooth.
Therefore, Your very name puts us all to shame.
Still, You have baptized us with the Holy Spirit,
and have forgiven the iniquity of Your people.
So, speak peace to us, to Your faithful ones,
for we turn to You in our hearts.
Only You can turn the world around.
All this we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace....**

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.

Her ancestors had long awaited the coming of the Messiah, but it was Mary who first awaited the coming of Jesus.

And, according to the Gospel of Luke, as she waited, Mary shared with her cousin Elizabeth the song we call the *Magnificat*.

One beloved interpretation of Mary's song is known as *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* (*Canticle of the Turning*),

Hymn #100 in our hymnal and this year's Advent theme borrows from its imagery and poetry. The God we await in Advent is the same God whom Mary awaited 2,000 years ago: it is Christ who is turning the world around.

The Advent Wreath, consists of four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. At First Presbyterian we use three blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy (usually the Third Sunday of Advent) with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle.

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

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

PROCLAIMING *the* WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Please join in singing as the children come forward.

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, Ye My People from Messiah
Tyrese Byrd, tenor

G.F. Handel

Comfort ye my people, saith your God,
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
And cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished,
That her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted from Messiah

Every valley shall be exalted,
And every mountain and hill made low;
The crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“And All Flesh Shall See It Together”

Nathaniel Fryer

Our Advent Liturgy was written by the Rev. Leigh Campbell-Taylor of Atlanta, GA.

Elementary-age children may attend Faith Formation classes on the Third Level following the Conversations with Young Disciples. Children are dismissed from their classrooms at the end of worship.

Advent Paraments
and Stoles were
commissioned
and made by
quilter and artist,
Beth Taylor of
Durham, NC for
the pulpit, lectern,
communion table,
and stoles for our
pastors.

RESPONDING & SEALING

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kevin Pipe and Kathleen Sienko present their daughter Katherine Ann Pipe, born June 21, 2022, for baptism.

- * AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed
**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the
 Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
 he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth
 on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall
 come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;
 the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness
 of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER AND BAPTISM

HYMN *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* KINGDOM

1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's_ sign, with this
 2. Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed! Fresh from

wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
 God. re-fresh our spir-its; in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.

Ways to give: Cash/Check

Place in the offering
plate or in the mail

Text-to-Give

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

Online

<https://bit.ly/FPCvanco>

Vanco Mobile App



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *And the Glory of the Lord* from *Messiah* G.F. Handel
 Chancel Choir

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.

* DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

All praise, e-ter-nal Christ, to thee, whose ad-vent sets thy peo-ple free; once
 more up-on thy peo-ple shine, and fill the world with love di-vine. A-men.

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

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Toccata*: ABERYSTWYTH David Bednall



The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Bill Hall, Brent Ivey, and the entire tech team for their dedicated service in managing the live-stream and recordings of worship services and programs.

The rosebuds are in honor of

*Charleigh Mae Stanley born on November 11, 2023 in Ann Arbor.
Her parents are Evan Stanley and Arin Ibanez. Grandfather is Rick Stanley.*

*Emerald Barbara-Lynne Gulick born December 1, 2023, in Chicago, IL.
Parents are Galen and Anne Gulick. Grandmother is Lynne Gulick.*



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WORSHIP NOTES

Advent Paperlace Banners

The Advent paperlace banners were designed by liturgical artist Ellen Phillips and were cut by members of FPC. Ellen writes about this week's inspiration for design:

With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like one day.

In our world, at this point in time, in the zooming American culture, to have to wait is something that we just do not want to do. Ever. To have to sit and wait for a stoplight to change is difficult. A late flight can totally throw us into panic because all the oh, so important things that we have lined up back-to-back will be seriously messed up!

Advent is a season that celebrates waiting and invites us to be countercultural and stop and wait and as the need to rush and fill our every minute recedes, Advent is a time to wonder.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found at peace. . .and regard the patience of the Lord as salvation.

So, beloved, let us see these days as a gift, a time to strive to be found at peace. Yes, we have to strive to be peaceful, there are many voices trying to pull us back out into the rush.

Be present where you are, God is there. Be still. Be at peace.
He shall surely come. Just wait.

WELCOME

We Are Glad You Are Here!

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.

While you are with us today, we would love for you to do two things:

1. **Sign the Friendship Pad.** The pads are located at the end of each pew. Sign it then pass it down to others.
2. **Join us following worship for Social Hour.** There will be cookies and coffee and lots of friendly faces.

Children in Worship

Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger on the First Level. Elementary-age children may attend Faith Formation classes on the Third Level following the Conversations with Young Disciples. Children 2nd grade and older will be independently dismissed from their classrooms at the conclusion of worship. Children in 1st grade or younger will remain in their classrooms and must be picked up by an adult. Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship.

Worship Leaders

Nathaniel Fryer
Rev. Hannah Lundberg
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers
Rev. Tommy Langejans

Lay Reader

Michael Oswalt

Musicians

Chancel Choir
Sanctus Ringers

Organist

David Hufford

Minister of Music & Fine Arts

David VanderMeer

Advent Candle Lighters

Meelei and Frank Chen,
Donna Smith, Brad Taylor

Welcome Center

Ginny Horan

Hillegonds Chapel

Prayer Partners

Beth Gerwig
Catherine Kendall

Ushers

Omer Belifi
Cyndy Colton
Clem Gill
Linda Lampman
Karla Olson-Belifi
Keith Molin
Len Rezmierski
Joe Schmidt
Elsa Stuber
Dick Stuber
Pat Tamblyn
Bruce Thomson

TODAY AT FIRST

8:30 a.m.	Communion Service Monteith Hall
9:30 a.m.	Worship Sanctuary
9:30 a.m.	Children & Youth Faith Formation 302-304, Youth Room
10:30 a.m.	Social Hour Social Hall
10:45 a.m.	Lemon Chapel Singers (K-8th grade) Lemon Chapel
11:00 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation Lewis Room, French Room
12:30 p.m.	College Group Youth Room
4:00 p.m.	The Glorious Sounds of Christmas Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATURE MINISTRIES

Lunch and Learn

Thursday, December 14
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Holiday Sing-Along
12:15 - 1:40 p.m. - Guest Speaker Dr. Meng Tan

Join us for a fun-filled collection of the most beloved Christmas songs and carols, accompanied by Brent Ivey and David VanderMeer with a special appearance by Santa Claus. Following lunch, Dr. Meng Tan will share highlights from his research on innovations in diabetes treatment.

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.

Rotating Shelter

Rotating Shelter returns to First Pres January 1-15, 2024! Please consider volunteering to donate food/snacks/warm clothing/hospitality when we turn our church home into an overnight home for a select group of 18-20 un-housed men. Sign up or learn more at firstpresbyterian.org.

WORSHIP

Poinsettia Orders

If you wish to donate a poinsettia to beautify our December 17 and 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. [The deadline for purchasing is today.](#) Purchase online at firstpresbyterian.org

STEWARDSHIP

Year-End Giving

We are grateful for the generous gifts made to First Pres that help us fulfill our mission of Making God's Love Visible. Below are guidelines and information you may find helpful for year-end giving:

Cash and check contributions can be mailed, placed in the plate at any service, or hand-delivered to the finance office. A contribution must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023, in order for it to be considered a 2023 tax deduction. Contributions Envelopes, for those who requested them, will be available outside the Finance Office through December 28. Any envelopes not picked up will be mailed on December 29.

Stock transfers and IRA/DAF

contributions must be received in the church's account by December 30, 2023. It is important to initiate the transfer early enough to allow for any year-end delay in transfers being completed. To obtain transfer information and notify the church of your gift, please contact Anna Miller at 734-662-4466 or amiller@firstpresbyterian.org. Thank you.



The World is about to Turn

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 10

The Glorious Sounds of Christmas Concert

4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Share the joy of the holiday season at our festive Christmas concert featuring the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers, Sanctus Ringers, and Lemon Chapel Singers. A strolling reception follows the concert.

Order you Christmas Poinsettias by Sunday, December 10.

Sunday, December 17

Nativity Service

9:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Children are invited to choose a costume and a part to play in this no-rehearsal retelling of the nativity story. Join us for this joyful worship experience.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received.

Wednesday, December 20

The Longest Night

7:00 p.m. | Monteith Hall

Join us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle — and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Sunday, December 24

The 4th Sunday of Advent (December 24) worship will be held at 8:30 & 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

5:00 & 8:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

A joyful Christmas Eve service featuring the Chancel Choir and Brass.

Come sing the carols and hear the traditional readings.

The 5:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Candlelight Communion

11:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

A traditional Christmas Eve service with Communion.

The Christmas Eve Offering benefiting Frontera de Cristo will be received.