



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

FOURTH SUNDAY *of* ADVENT  
December 24, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY *of* ADVENT

December 24, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.

\* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,  
and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Paul Manz

*Improvisation on Savior of the Nations, Come*

POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

BELL PEAL

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Into the flickering light of hope and peace and joy, now comes love.  
Love is the greatest of these  
because nothing will be impossible with God's love.  
And so we sing of Your steadfast love, O LORD!  
We declare that Your steadfast love is established forever.  
We give thanks that You so loved the world as to send Your only  
begotten Son, and we are eager to welcome Him, the Lord of Love.

\* HYMN 88

*O Come, O Come Emmanue*  
(stanzas 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Great God of love,  
We have not loved You with all that we are. Not even close.  
In fact, we have fallen so far short  
that we might dread the day You bring –  
the day when the fires of Your justice will burn –  
except we know that Your justice is rooted in love.  
And that is what we need.  
When our faith is as faint as midwinter sun,  
and our fears are as lingering as midwinter night,  
we need the love and the light of Your incarnate Son.  
Send Your love again to heal us,  
for nothing will be impossible with You.  
And so, in the name of Love, we pray for Your world to turn....**

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

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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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

Luke 1:46-55  
David Hufford

*Magnificat*  
Abby Kasenow

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,

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

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.

### 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/FP Cvanco>

#### Vanco Mobile App



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!

### SERMON

## RESPONDING

\*HYMN 99

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

MORNING SONG

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*Magnificat*

Chancel Choir

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*

*Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutary meo.*

*Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae.*

*Eccde enim ex hoc beatam me decent omnes generationes.*

*Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est.*

*Et sanctam nomen ejus.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord,

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden;

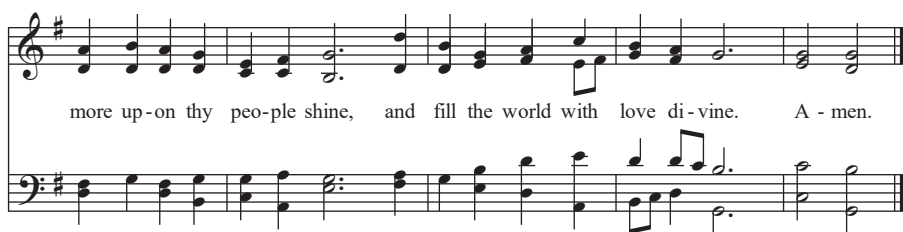
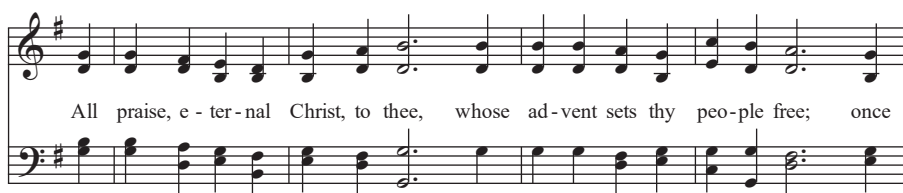
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath done to me great things;

And hold is his name.

\* DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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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 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY John Behnke

*Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL*



# 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:

*Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever; your throne shall be established forever.*  
2nd Samuel 7:16

*He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy, according to his promises he made ... forever.*  
Luke 1:55

*To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever.*  
Romans 16:27

*[Jesus] will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*  
Luke 1:33

When we use the word “forever” in conversation, we don’t really mean “forever”. We mean maybe until something new or different or better comes along, at best we mean until the day we die. When God says “forever,” God actually means forever. God’s love stretches to a place where there is no concept of time, beyond our earth, our solar system, our known galaxy. We are part of this vast love and all we are called to do is to love God and to glorify Jesus Christ forever.

# 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. Children are always welcome to stay with their families during worship.

## Worship Leaders

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers	<i>Advent Candle Lighters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>
Rev. Hannah Lundberg	Marlee Brown, Dan Musser,	Pat Tamblyn
Rev. Mark Mares	Edith Musser, Maverick	Karla Olson-Bellfi
<i>Musicians</i>	Musser, Cece Musser, and	Omer Bellfi
Chancel Choir	Pippa Musser	Joe Schmidt
<i>Organist</i>	<i>Lay Reader</i>	Keith Molin
David Hufford	Sandra McDonald	Clem Gill
<i>Minister of Music &amp; Fine Arts</i>	<i>Welcome Center</i>	Elsa Stuber
David VanderMeer	Barbara Mueller	Dick Stuber
		Linda Lampman
		Len Rezmierski

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADMINISTRATION

### Office Closed

The church office will be closed Monday through Wednesday, December 25-27, in observance of Christmas. The staff of FPC wishes you a Christmas filled with joy!

## MATURE MINISTRIES

### Smartphone 101

Wednesdays, January 10 - February 7  
10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Learn the key components, concepts, and techniques of your smartphone in the Smartphone 101 class. Classes are offered in the morning and evening for iPhone and Android users. Cost is \$50 and limited to 15 participants per class.

### Smartphone 201

Wednesdays, January 10 - February 7  
11:45 a.m. & 6:45 p.m.

Learn useful skills and apps such as Maps, Google Lens, Uber, and more. This class is for those with confidence in downloading apps and basic operation of a smartphone. Cost is \$50 and limited to 15 participants per class.

## Mature Singles

### New Year's Day Potluck

Monday, January 1  
1:00 p.m.

Mature singles are invited to start the new year with a potluck at Marcy Toon's home on Monday, January 1. Contact Marcy for direction and to let her know you will attend, 734-995-2519.

## 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](http://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](mailto:amiller@firstpresbyterian.org). Thank you.





# Christmas Eve

**5:00 & 8:00 PM**

**CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS**

A Christmas Eve service featuring the Chancel Choir and Brass. Come sing the carols and hear the traditional readings.

**11:00 PM**

**CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION**

A Christmas Eve service with a homily and Communion

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING**

For decades, First's Christmas Eve offering has helped individuals and families in need in our community and wider world. This year we continue this tradition by supporting our mission partner Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry located in the sister cities of Agua Prieta, Sonora and Douglas, Arizona. Join us in building relationships and understanding across borders as a signpost of God's great welcome to each and everyone of us.

