



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

FIRST SUNDAY *of* ADVENT
December 3, 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.

FIRST SUNDAY *of* ADVENT

December 3, 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

J. S. Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

BELL PEAL

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

There is only this single candle to light today: the candle of hope. A single candle in the December darkness ignites our hope that the dawn draws near.

A single candle shines forth just enough hope to see that there's a table spread where all will be fed.

A single candle blazes in hope because, since Mary bears the Christ Child, the world is about to turn.

* HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God of hope, Isaiah boldly prayed, "O that You would tear open the heavens and come down," but we are not so bold.

Our words may pretend to plead for Your presence, but our lives reveal our disdain for Your ways.

In fact, the idea of You returning with great power and glory often fills us more with dread than with hope.

Forgive us. Transform us.

Strengthen us so that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray with hope....

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

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

Isaiah 64:1-9

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

Mark 13:24-37

The grass withers, the flower fades;

The word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

RESPONDING & SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

My Heart Shall Sing

arr. Karen Marrolli

Chancel Choir, Daniel Winnick, violin, and John Dorsey, percussion

Refrain

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.

The loud shall fall silent, the silent shall speak,

The weak be made mighty, the mighty made weak.

When tyrants shake with wrath, O lift us, meek and mild,

To walk the peaceful path to the Holy Child.

The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,

And your mercy will last from the depths
of the past to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,

And to those who would for you yearn,

You will show your might, put the strong to flight,

For the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

The wealthy, you humble. The hungry you fill.

The prideful, you scatter. The anxious, you still.

When darkness holds all sway, and the world fall into night,

O lead us into day, to the Child of Light.

Disrupt our world! Disturb our souls!

Let those in comfort feel affliction!

Unsettle all who have ever dwelt secure!

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

**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



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.

Secure the frail in firm conviction!
From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.

Our hearts cry for healing, our souls thirst for song.
Our hands crave true labor, to vanquish all wrong.
When Creation burns with scorn, when we hear the drums of hate,
Remind us love is born in the child we await.
The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard. *Refrain*

* 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

People shall come from east and west
and God's name shall be blessed as we gather at the table of hope.
So, lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

... Therefore, we join our voices with all creation's song of thanks and praise:

SANCTUS

LAND OF REST

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord... God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth... are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in... the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

... All this we pray in the name of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us who taught us to pray saying:

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.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC *The Glory of the Father* Egil Hovland
 Chancel Choir Ensemble

The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
 We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 In the beginning was the word. The word was with God.
 In him was life; and the life was the light of all.
 He came to his own, and his own received him not.
 The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
 We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

* HYMN 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
Please be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *A Trumpet Minuet* Alfred Hollins



The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hubert and Almira White by their daughter Jean White.

The yellow rosebud is in honor of Tate Alexander Schroeder, born August 15, 2023, in Minneapolis, MN. Parents are Lindsay and Denny Schroeder. Grandparents are Tracy and Doug Short.

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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. The scriptures for this first week are dark, even sorrowful. Isaiah 64:5 wonders how we can even be saved...we have all become unclean...like filthy rags. Yet, there is still hope that the Messiah will come and that the darkness will fade. Ellen states, "My design for this banner is minimal and unclear. The only thing that can be identified are the rays of a slowly rising sun, a sure sign that the light will shine."

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
Rev. Tommy Langejans
Rev. Mark Mares
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

Lay Reader

Michael Haithcock

Musicians

Chancel Choir

Organist

David Hufford

Minister of Music & Fine Arts

David VanderMeer

Advent Candle Lighters

Ben, Amanda, Addy,
Georgia, and William
Carlisle

Greeters

Mary Schudel
Prue Heikkinen
Nancy Oliver

Ushers

Cyndy Colton
Clem Gill
Linda Lampman
Keith Molin
Len Rezmierski
Joe Schmidt
Elsa Stuber
Dick Stuber
Pat Tamblyn

Welcome Center

Sandy Herold

Hillegonds Chapel

Prayer Partner
Nancy Oliver

SUNDAY OFFERINGS

8:30 AM

Communion Service
Monteith Hall

9:30 AM

Worship
Sanctuary &
Livestream

10:30 AM

Social Hour
Social Hall

10:45 AM

Lemon Chapel Singers (K-8th)
Lemon Chapel

11:00 AM

Adult Faith Formation

11:00 AM

Fast Track to Membership
Pastor's Study

12:30 PM

College Group
Youth Room

6:00 PM

Youth Group
Youth Room

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Classes meet at 11:00 a.m.

EXPLORING THE FAITH

Encountering Advent Scripture in a Whole New Way

Lewis Room

Host: Rev. Mark Mares

Dec. 3 - “Embodied Scripture Workshop: Experiencing Scripture Holistically” led by Debra L. Freeberg, Theatre Professor Emerita, Calvin University

BIBLE AT 11 O’CLOCK

New Testament Epistles:

James; 1, 2, & 3 John

French Room & Zoom

Host: Ed Koster

FIRST FRIENDS

This class will join the Exploring the Faith class for the month of December.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

College Group

College students are invited to lunch and Bible study at 12:30 in the Youth Room (lower level). This month we meet on December 3 and 10. For more information and to join the email list, contact Hannah Lundberg, hlundberg@fpca2.org.

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, “Innovations in Diabetes Treatment”

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. Dr. Tan is Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine in the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Diabetes at the University of Michigan.

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 Sunday, December 10. Purchase online at firstpresbyterian.org



The World is about to Turn

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Tuesday, December 5

Advent Taizé Prayer Service

7:00 p.m. | Monteith Hall

Experience a beautiful form of prayer, inspired by the ecumenical community in Taizé, France.

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 your 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 AM

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.