



NATIVITY SERVICE

Sunday, December 18, 2022

11:15 am | Sanctuary



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANN ARBOR, MI

NATIVITY SERVICE
Sunday, December 18 | 11:15 a.m.

Welcome to Worship

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

WELCOME

Beca Torres-Davenport

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations on Sussex Carol

Raymond Haan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Zane Yntema and Daniel Forger

Listen, children of God, God is doing a new thing! The Lord shall give you a sign.

A bright star will shine over Bethlehem, marking the place where a young woman shall bring forth a child, the very Son of God.

**His name shall be called Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Come children of God; come and follow the star to Bethlehem.

Come and adore Christ the newborn King!

Come. Join us in this story of hope and love.

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

READING

God's Promise Told to Mary and Joseph
Luke 1: 26-38

Finlay Hyers

CAROL *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL
**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

READING The Journey of Mary and Joseph Levi Gehrke
Luke 2:1-5

CAROL *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

READING The Birth of Jesus Selena Slosberg
Luke 2:6-7

CAROL *Silent Night, Holy Night* STILLE NACHT
**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round you virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**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.**

READING The Angels Appear to the Shepherds Zora Polikoff
Luke 2:8-14

*CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA
**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

As that Winter's eve drew nigh, in the stable lowly,
Mary laid her head to rest, on the Baby holy,
People far and people near, rest your sorrows, take good cheer!
Ring the gladsome bells, (Blessed tidings tell,
For he brings, (In His wings), heaven's healing glory,
Sing the Christmas story.

INVITATION TO SEE THE BABY JESUS

Beca Torres-Davenport

CAROL

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

David Prentice-Hyers

Today's offering will support our neighbors in need through the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County at the Delonis Center. If you have brought personal care items to donate, please bring them forward to the baskets at this time.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

What Child is This?

GREENSLEEVES

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

**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.**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

Cece Musser and Megan Berry

*BENEDICTION

*CAROL

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

The Snow Lay On the Ground

arr. Leo Sowerby



WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, Lead Pastor

Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children & Family Ministry

Rev. Megan Berry, Resident Minister

Readers

Daniel Forger
Levi Gehrke
Cora Meade
Zoe Millward
Cece Musser
Zora Polikoff
Selena Slosberg
Calvin Yntema
Zane Yntema
Ben Zink

The Holy Family

Joseph: Reid Sawtell
Mary: Charlotte Sawtell
Jesus: Clara Sawtell

Angels

Olivia Forger
Charlotte Gehrke
Angus Hyers
Grace Lardo
Cora Meade
Felicity Milward
Pippa Musser
Annie Ominsky
Marlo Polikoff
Sebastian Torres-Davenport
Ali Vercler

Angel Gabriel

Martin Gehrke

Shepherd Angel

Grace Lardo

Shepherds

Sam Bowles
Quentin Gehrke
Graham Lardo

Musicians

David Hufford, Organist
Brent Ivey, Children's Choir Accompanist

Evan Meade
Isaac Meade
Cooper Pickard
Elizabeth Vercler
Calvin Yntema

Star-bearers

Hannah Bowles
August Lardo
Charlotte Pickard
Theo Reinhardt
Emily Zink

Magi

Daniel Forger
Levi Gehrke
Finlay Hyers
Fisher Lardo
Cece Musser
Hattie Ominsky
Zora Polikoff
Selena Slosberg
Jackie Vercler
Zane Yntema
Ben Zink

Children's Choir

Charlotte Gehrke
Levi Gehrke
Quentin Gehrke
Elspeth Gerety
Evie Gerety
Angus Hyers
Finlay Hyers
Grace Lardo
Cora Meade
Evan Meade
Isaac Meade
Felicity Millward

Zoe Millward
Cece Musser
Pippa Musser
Annie Ominsky
Hattie Ominsky
Rebecca Slosberg
Selena Slosberg
Sebastian Torres-Davenport
Ali Vercler
Elizabeth Vercler
Jackie Vercler
Calvin Yntema
Zane Yntema

Lighting the Advent Candles

Jackie Vercler

Parent and Youth Helpers

Deborah Forger
Caryn Gehrke
Jane Lardo
Betsy Meade
Brian Meade
Marlee Musser
Mel Prentice-Hyers
Sarah Reinhardt
Anna Schneider
Christian Vercler
Susan Zink

Audio/Visual Production

Rohl Kibler and Bill Hall

Ushers

Diane Tamblyn
Pat Tamblyn
Beth Sanderford
Holly Majorprice
Aidan Majorprice
Chloe Majorprice

Shayla Powell, Children's Choir Director
Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

JOIN US IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

THE LONGEST NIGHT

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 p.m. | Monteith Hall

This season is especially hard for those grieving, uncertain, facing illness, or feeling melancholy during the holidays. 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

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.

Our Christmas Eve Offering will support our local mission partners (Alpha House, SOS Community Service, and Shelter Association-Delonis Center) in providing housing and support services for unhoused families, families with children, and individuals.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25

Casual Christmas Celebration

10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

Celebrate the hope and wonder of Christmas.

Children are encouraged to bring their Christmas toys to the worship service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1432 Washtenaw Avenue | Ann Arbor, Michigan

734-662-4466 | firstpresbyterian.org