DECEMBER 9, 2018 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.



Advent Candles © 2015 John Stuart

So Gathering S

PRELUDE

Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us This work is based on Hymn 17.

J. S. Bach

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Parks-Piatt (8:00) Rev. Rogers (9:30/11:00)

FAITH IN ACTION

Rotating Shelter

Margie Perrett and Marty Reineman (8:00) Brian Baumhover and Dan Hayes (9:30) Barb Ladewski and Marcey Terrien (11:00)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lighting the Candle of Peace are David and Martha Kershaw (8:00); the Montas family: Sacha, Jane, Maggie, J. P., and Luc (9:30); and members of Men's Bible Study: Roland Kibler, Ben Helmke, Philwa Lee, and Don Redding.



A Reading on Peace

Choral Response: Draw Near

Prayer

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Parks-Piatt (9:30) Rev. McGowan (11:00)

One: Loving God, be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit.

All: Clear your road in us; clear a path through the debris of possessions and obsession.

One: Thrust aside our divided aims and devious games. Topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts that ridicule.

All: Make a highway on which Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our being.

One: To the glory of your name we pray.

CONFESSION

One: Forgiving God, in this season of Advent,
All: we welcome the coming of your light
in a world filled with darkness.

One: We confess to you the ways in which we have added to that darkness rather than obeyed our call to live as children of the light.

All: We ask your forgiveness:

for times when we worship violence and belittle peace, for times when we fight amongst ourselves, for times when we forget that we are all children of God, for times when we do not stand up for the helpless among us.

One: By your tender mercy,

All: may the dawn from on high break upon us,
One: and give light to those of us that sit in darkness

All: and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S 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

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marilynn Simpson (8:00) John Whittier-Ferguson (9:30) Scott Ellsworth (11:00)

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Beca Torres-Davenport

Children through grade five are invited forward.

SECOND READING Luke 3:1–6

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Koenig-Reinke (8:00) Strange Ways of God Rev. Sanderford (9:30/11:00)

* AN ADVENT RESPONSE TO THE WORD (9:30)

One: God did not wait till the world was ready, till... nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

All: God did not wait for the perfect time.

God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. God did not wait...

One: till hearts were pure. In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame God came, and God's Light would not go out.

All: God came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

One: In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

All: We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!



Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Text: Cameroon song; Music: Cameroon melody; Music Arr. © 1986 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Puclications, Inc.); OneLicense.net #A-720542.

WELCOME

Rev. Buckley (11:00)

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others sitting nearby.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory (9:30/11:00) This is the Record of John Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him: Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him: what art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet, and he answered no.

Then said they unto him: what art thou? That we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said: I am the voice of him that cryeth in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord.

* Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (8:00)

See Communion Card

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.



* **HYMN 13** Prepare the Way Bereden väg för herran Please sing stanzas 1–2.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace. And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

* POSTLUDE

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Paul Manz

Those parts of the service of worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in **bold type**. Hearing-assistance devices and large-print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

The Confession was adapted from material written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing (www.stephenmfearing.com). **Draw Near graphics** are credited to Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Welcome to all! Please know that all, including visitors and newcomers, are invited to share in the life of the church. A full description of church events is online at www.firstpresbyterian.org. If you have questions, please visit the Welcome Center, just outside the Social Hall. Greeting you there today are Debbie Swartz and Barbara Mueller. The Church Office is staffed by Robin Agnew. Greeters are Sharon Sheldon and Karen Mundus (9:30) and Marilyn Gibson and Pam Ehrhart (11:00). Sound system volunteers are Bryan Magnuson (9:30) and Barry Leonard (11:00). Ushers are Bill Austin and Nancy Fox (8:00); Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Len Rezmierski, Ken, Ali, and Ava Westfall, Carol Smith, Angela Yang, Spaulding Clark, Dean Gilchrist, Kay Fuller, and Kate Silbert (9:30); and Bill Austin (head), Jeannette Middleton and Jim

^{*} Please rise in body or spirit.

Douglass (captains), Cindy Lambrides, Gregg, Vincent, and Stacey Pakela, and Sandy Herold (11:00). **The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Prayer team members are Annette Fraser and Meg Brown (9:30) and Brad Taylor (11:00). Following the 8:00 service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "Prayer is the sovereign remedy." —Robert Hall

Musical leadership is provided by Children's Choir (9:30), Max Trombley, tenor, and Chancel Choir (9:30/11:00).

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Lewis and Maxine Profit by their son Kirk; in loving memory of Richard and Dorothy Platte by the family of Richard (Jr.) and Leslie Platte; and in loving memory of Beth Johnson by her family.

The pink rosebud celebrates the birth of Eleanor Lily Parker, born November 26, 2018, daughter of Matt and Krista Parker. Grandparents are Katie and Bill Parker.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Worship is at 8:00 in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **Radio Worship is broadcast at 11:00 a.m.** on WAAM (1600 AM) and on the web (www.waamradio.com).

Join us for Coffee Hour, sponsored by Presbyterian Women, in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookies** are provided by Lynn Millward, Marilyn Gibson, and Zoe McCarthy.

The Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Detroit will offer Listening Sessions today after worship services. There will be sessions in the Lewis Room at 8:45 a.m. and at 10:35 a.m. A Listening Session will be held at 12:00 noon in Room LL-4 on the lower level.

The Story Slam / Strolling Soirée begins at 4:00 in the Sanctuary. This is an event for the whole family with music, stories, food, and beverages, and so much more. Join in the fun as we "Draw Near" to each other and to God during Advent.

Children's Ministry Opportunities:

Sunday School classes are held for three-year olds through fifth graders at 9:30 a.m. **Childcare** is available for crib through preschoolers at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship activity totes and Busy Hands activity baskets are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary for children attending worship at 11:00 a.m.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

All youth grades 6–12 are invited to join us for our scheduled youth programming. Everyone is welcome! Munch and Mingle begins at 9:20 a.m. in the Youth Room on the Lower Level. Sunday School and Confirmation classes meet at 9:30 a.m. **Youth groups** will enjoy the Story Slam and Strolling Soirée beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Adult Education Opportunities:

The Bible @ 9:30 meets in the French Room/Library. Rev. Ed Koster is the presenter. This year's theme is "The Bible Speaks to You about the Important Ideas." All are welcome for study and robust discussion.

First Friends meet in Monteith Hall at 9:30 a.m. First Friends is a self-directed adult group that offers a safe, supportive gathering to discuss religious and spiritual topics. Today the group explores "The Life of Meaning."

Exploring the Faith meets in Monteith Hall at 11:00 a.m. for "A Lesson on Carols." Rev. Koenig-Reinke will facilitate as the group explores together the power of singing and the joy of caroling.

UKirk@Umich, Undergraduate Campus Ministry Opportunities:

- The French Room (Library) is available from 10:30 a.m. to noon each Sunday for snacks and studying.
- Enjoy our College Lunch on Sundays at noon (meet in the Welcome Center after the 11:00 a.m. service). It's free!
- Take a study break with the Coffee Crew on Monday afternoons, 1:00–5:00 p.m., in the League.
- Have faithful conversation at our Small Group on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m., also in the League.
- Let us take you out to coffee or lunch. Contact Revs. Buckley, Koenig-Reinke, and McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org).

T2A2 Small Group meets at Chris Wahl's house at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the book of Revelation. Bring your questions and insights, wherever you are on your faith journey! For more information about social, spiritual, and service opportunities for people in their 20s and 30s, contact Rev. Parks-Piatt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Living God's Love — **Stewardship Update:** As of December 3, 377 pledges totaling \$1,213,255 have been received. This represents 71.4% of our \$1,700,000 goal. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help as we begin planning the 2019 budget. Thank you for Living God's Love through the ministries of First Pres!

Volunteer for the Annual Pancake Supper! First Pres will host our Annual Pancake Supper this Tuesday, December 11, 10:00 p.m. to midnight. It's not too late to volunteer! Contact Rev. Koenig-Reinke.

Are you anticipating spending Christmas Day alone? Would you open your Christmas Day table to include a church member who otherwise would be alone? The Congregational Life Committee hopes to put people together on this most special day to share a meal. Whichever side of the invitation you are on, please contact Rev. Rogers.

All are invited to join First Pres youth as they enjoy Christmas caroling at Glacier Hills on Sunday, December 23. Meet at Glacier Hills in the front lobby at 2:00 p.m.

Mature Singles meet for dinner this Friday, December 14, at Metzger's German Restaurant, 305 North Zeeb Road, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Be part of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) response to the devastation wrought by wildfires in California. To support recovery efforts, send checks directly to the church, made out to First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor with "U.S. Wildfires" in the memo line. You may also donate directly to PDA online, through our First Pres web site.

Stratford in 2019? The Mature Ministries group (which welcomes you at any age!) returns to Stratford June 11–12 to see two shows - *Billy Elliott* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Our group travels by chartered bus and stays at the Arden Park Hotel. All taxes and gratuities are included. The price is \$345/pp for a double room, and \$449/pp for a single room. Interested? Let Rev. Rogers know by December 10.

Join our Mature Ministries Lunch and Learn this Thursday, December 13, as we learn about Presbyterian Divestment from UM Professor Ron Stockton. Sign up in the Church Office. Lunch is \$5. In June 2014, the 221st Presbyterian General Assembly, decided by a vote of 310–303 to sell their holdings in three corporations entangled with the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. Professor Stockton will help us understand the history of the decision and where we are now.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Reverend Blair Buckley, Resident Minister

GJ Frye, Peer Minister for Youth Ministry

Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator

Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

Dr. Richard Ingram, Interim Director of Music Ministries

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/Children's Education Assistant

Reverend Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister

Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator

Dave Lett, Finance Assistant

Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator

Kellie McInchak, Interim Children's Choir Director

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Reverend Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Resident Minister

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Simon Suboski, Interim Youth Choir Director

Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse

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

