



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 11, 2016
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.



With the Spirit and Fire
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🌿 Gathering 🌿

PRELUDE

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Monnett (8:00)
Rev. Rogers (9:30)
Rev. Ryo (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 80

One: Lord God, come to save us!

All: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

One: Give us life; then we will call on your name.

**All: Restore us, O God of all. Look upon us with favor,
that we may be saved!**

HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

(9:30/11:00) Soloists will sing an introduction. Stand when indicated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

During this Advent Season, we will light four candles, one for each Sunday before Christmas, as a sign of the coming Christ. Candlelighters today are Sue Cares (8:00); Jeanette Clute, Steve, Carson, and Alexandra Strauss (9:30); and Luke and Katherine Panning (11:00). The Children's Choir is assisting at 9:30 a.m.

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

All: **Advent means coming.**

We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom.

Choral Response *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

Prayer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you are faithful and sure and deal with us more patiently than we deserve. We admit that we are blown by the wind and reap the pain of bad decisions. We are quick to judge and to condemn. We are slow to see our own faults and seek correction. Cleanse us from all wrong and set us on the right path, that our lives may reflect your grace and others may see your light in us.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Comfort, comfort you my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as forgiven 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!

Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marilynn Simpson (8:00)
John Whittier-Ferguson (9:30)
Josh King (11:00)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 11:2-11

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Rev. Sanderford

Children through grade five are invited forward.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Malachi 3:1-4

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Fair

Responding

HYMN 20

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

(9:30/11:00) *Soloists will sing an introduction. Stand when indicated.*

WELCOME

Rev. Ervin (9:30)
Rev. Rogers (11:00)

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

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory (9:30/11:00)

from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Thus saith the Lord of hosts: yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all nations, and the desire of the nations shall come. (*Haggai 2:6-7; modified*)

The Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, e'en the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in, behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. (*Malachi 3:1b*)

But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire. (*Malachi 3:2a*)

And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (*Malachi 3:3; selected portions*)

* 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)

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 40

Joy to the World

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* POSTLUDE

* Please rise in body or spirit.

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

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 may be found online at www.firstpresbyterian.org. If you have questions, please visit the **Welcome Center**, just outside the Social Hall. Greeting you there today are Karen Walter and Judy Landau. **The Church Office** is open this morning 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Parish Nurse Sandy Talbott will be in the office until 10:45. Serving during the 11:00 a.m. hour is Jane Bartman. **Greeters** are Meg and Paul Brown, Val and John Yodhes, Ellen Johnson, and Marilyn Gibson. **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Marilynn Simpson at 8:00 a.m.; Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Len Rezmierski, Angela Yang, Olivier Jolliet, Nicole Jolliet, Lee Roberts, Dean Gilchrist, Carol Smith, Jinx Cooke, Dick Cooke, and Kay Fuller at 9:30 a.m.; and Bill Austin (head), Brady West (captain), Jeanette Middleton, and Jim Douglass at 11:00 a.m.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the piano in the Sanctuary, after the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. Prayer team members are Diane Knibbs and Elsa Stuber after the 9:30 service, and Pam Rinker and Michele Derr after the 11:00 service. Following the 8:00 a.m. service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. “Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time.” – Edward Hays

Musical leadership for worship includes Yazid Gray, baritone; Matthew Walker, countertenor; First Presbyterian Baroque Chamber Ensemble; and Chancel Choir.

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Richard and Dorothy Platte by the family of Richard (Jr.) and Leslie Platte.

The red rosebud celebrates the birth of Samuel Edward Bowles, son of Ashley and Brent Bowles, born November 18, 2016. Grandparents are Carol and Paul Smith.

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 in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are Kim Byers-Granito, Kari Michalowski, and Elsa Stuber. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children. **Coffee Hour is sponsored today by Presbyterian Women** who invite you to enjoy a display of crechès collected by Jane Warner and donated to Presbyterian Women.

Children's Ministry Opportunities:

Childcare and Sunday School classes are held for crib through fifth graders at 9:30 a.m. **Childcare** is available for preschoolers at 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.

Children's Choir is 10:30 – 10:55 a.m. in Room 300.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

Mids, our middle school youth group, join T2A2 for Christmas caroling, 6:00 – 8:00. Meet at Whitehall Retirement Community (3370 Morgan Road, Ann Arbor). **Keystones**, our high school youth group, meet in the Youth Room, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Adult Education Opportunities:

Handel's Messiah for the Music Lover and the Biblical Seeker, led by Rev. Kent Palmquist, is in the Lewis Room, 8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

The Bible @ 9:30 meets in the French Room to study the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. The presenter is Rev. Ed Koster.

First Couples meets in Monteith Hall at 9:30 a.m. for *The Life and Thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, an exploration in video and discussion.

Common Ground and Exploring the Faith meet together at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall for *Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah*, led by Rev. Sanderford and a Resident Minister.

T2A2, our young adults group for twenties and thirties, meets off-site at 2:30 p.m. for a holiday event and joins Mids, our middle school youth group, for Christmas caroling at Whitehall Retirement Community (3370 Morgan Road, Ann Arbor) at 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent continues! Our Advent worship is based on Old Testament texts G. F. Handel used for the musical masterwork *Messiah*. Next Sunday, December 18, at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., the musical proclamation will be extended to 40 minutes of excerpts from Part I with soloists, choir, and chamber orchestra. The 8:00 a.m. service will follow our regular order of worship.

A study for both the music lover and the biblical seeker to explore the scriptural texts of Handel's *Messiah* is offered this Wednesday, December 14, 11:00 a.m., in the Lewis Room, led by Rev. Gary Oliver.

A *Winter Concert* by the Women's Chamber Chorus is this Friday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Admission is free. Sanctus Ringers, First Presbyterian's handbell choir, will perform solo and with the Chorus.

The Men's Friday Morning Study Group meets this Friday, December 16, at 8:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee and conversation. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, December 16, 5:30 p.m., at Metzger's German Restaurant, 305 North Zeeb Road. All are welcome.

Our annual Pancake Supper is this Tuesday, December 13. We expect to serve over 200 hungry college students from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Monetary donations are still being accepted.

All women are invited to Presbyterian Women's Bible Study and Program December 21. Alice Gaujanian leads a discussion on "Who Is Jesus According to John?" at 9:30 a.m. in the Lewis Room. "Sing, Choirs of Angels," led by Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries, follows at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall.

Year-End Finance Information: The IRS requires 2016 books to be closed December 31. Make sure your donation is postmarked by December 31 for your contribution to be applied to your 2016 financial statement. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year. A new authorization form, available on our website and in the Finance Office, must be filled out annually.

The Nicaragua Mission Team has planned an intergenerational trip during spring break, March 31 – April 9. There are openings for middle school and high school students and their parent or guardian. This is an opportunity for families to experience international mission together, visit a developing country and learn about its culture while working along side Nicaraguan people. The deadline for sign-up is December 27. For more information, contact Carol or Paul Smith (psmith6641@aol.com) or Rev. Rogers.

Our All-Church Cookie Exchange is next Sunday. Bring at least a dozen cookies to the Social Hall by 9:25 a.m. During Coffee Hour beginning at 10:30 a.m., volunteers will help you fill boxes to take home. If you bring gluten-free cookies, please label them.

Christmas Eve Worship – December 24:

Family Worship and Pageant	3:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols	5:00 p.m. (Prelude begins at 4:30 p.m.)
Lessons and Carols	7:00 p.m. (Prelude begins at 6:30 p.m.)
Candlelight Communion	11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship – December 25:

Family Worship and Communion 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day Worship – January 1, 2017:

Family Worship and Communion 10:00 a.m.

Children's Ministry on Christmas Eve:

Childcare will be provided at the 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services by reservation only. If you need childcare for any of these services, please contact Debbie MacVey or the Church Office.

If you or your family are able to give the young families of this church the wonderful gift of providing childcare during one of these services, please contact Debbie MacVey.

It is tradition for children to bring a gift of new socks and underwear in any size wrapped in tissue paper to the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant. These gifts are given to the House by the Side of the Road for distribution to families in need.

The 2016 Christmas Eve offering will provide clean water and safe, sturdy housing to Haitians after Hurricane Matthew devastated Haiti last October. Gifts will be divided equally between Living Waters for the World, a Presbyterian mission project that helps small communities build water systems to supply clean water for families, and The Building Goodness Foundation's Rapid Re-Housing Project for families who lost their homes. Please mark your check or envelope "Haiti" to support this effort. If you wish to direct your offering toward your tithe or pledge, please indicate "church" on your check or envelope.

The church building will be closed December 26 and January 2.

First Pres opens its doors January 2 – 16, 2017, to provide sleeping space for up to 25 men directed here by the Shelter Association.

Volunteers are needed for evening and overnight hosts each night; drivers are needed on weekend mornings. Also needed are donations of hot food, snacks, gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, and new long underwear. Sign up on our church website. Contact Rev. Rogers, Jeanette Middleton (msjett@aol.com), or John Yodhes (677-4036) for more information.

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Reverend Dr. James Monnett, Director of Youth Ministry/Transitional Campus Minister

Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries

Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries

Carol Muehlig, Associate Music Director and Organist

Resident Ministers:

Reverend Emily Béghin

Reverend Daniel Ervin

Reverend Angela Ryo

Peer Ministers:

Lex Allum

Jenna Harms

Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/Children's Education Assistant

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist



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