



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 18, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



Revelation 19:6-A - Hallelujah © 2016 Timothy R. Botts | Eyecons

Many of today's musical selections are from
Messiah (Part 1)

G. F. Handel

PRELUDE

Sinfony (Overture)
Comfort ye my people
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
And the glory of the Lord

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
(Isaiah 40:1-5)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40:3

Rev. Dr. Fair

One: A voice cries out:

**All: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God!"**

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 the LeDuc and Maier families (9:30); and Joe and Shawneene Bones (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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Sanderford (9:30)

Rev. Ervin (11:00)

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: Let us make our confession to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION based on Isaiah 60:1-3

One: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**All: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated
the darkness in the world or in us.**

One: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**All: We confess that we ignore the Christ
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

One: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

**All: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the
Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each
moment in our waiting hearts.**

One: Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**All: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us
for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that
we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song.
Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle
of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time.**

Amen.

from The Worship Sourcebook

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!

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH Rev. Rogers (9:30)

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward. Doris Granum

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Chris Dahl (9:30)

Jim Clark (11:00)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name

Emmanuel: God with us. (*Isaiah 7:14b and Matthew 1:23*)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountains; . . . lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! (*Isaiah 40:9*)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (*Isaiah 60:1*)

READING Isaiah 60:2, 3; Isaiah 9:2

PROCLAMATION Rev. Dr. Fair

For unto us a Child is born

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

OFFERING Rev. Dr. Monnett (9:30)

Rev. Béghin (11:00)

Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)

There were shepherds abiding in the field

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them

And the angel said unto them

And suddenly there was with the angel

Glory to God

There were shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people: for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men. (*Luke 2:8-14*)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! O daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy king cometh unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen. (*Zechariah 9:9-10*)

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.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (*Isaiah 35:5-6*)

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (*Isaiah 40:11*)

Come unto him all ye that labour, that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (*Matthew 11:28-29*)

BENEDICTION

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Hallelujah!*

Please join the choir and orchestra singing:

Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

Following the service, please leave the insert of Hallelujah in the pew or hand it to an usher so that we may use it in future years. These copies were given in memory of Phil Dalley.

* 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 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 Gail Grady and Peggy Jensen. **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 Robin Agnew. **Greeters** are Judy Landau, Carolyn Schultz, Sara Vander Voort, and John and Dawn Pankopf. **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Angela Yang, Olivier Jolliet, Nicole Jolliet, Dean

Gilchrist, Carol Smith, Jinx Cooke, Kay Fuller, Lee Roberts, Sue Jeffers, and Richard Lord at 9:30 a.m.; and Bill Austin (head), Brady West (captain), Jeannette 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 Nancy Fox and Elsa Stuber after the 9:30 service, and Carole Hendrickson and Angie Miller after the 11:00 service. "I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, it changes me." – C. S. Lewis

Musical leadership for worship includes Steve Pierce, tenor; Rachel Barg, alto; Doris Granum, soprano; Lorna Young Hildebrandt, soprano; First Pres Baroque Chamber Ensemble; and Chancel Choir. We thank the donors to the Sacred Music Fund whose support makes additional worship and music opportunities possible.

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).

The Christmas Joy Offering is received today. Your gifts allow the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to offer vital support to retired and active church workers and their families who face crises.

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are John and Dawn Pankopf, Marlene Stoeffler, and Angela Yang. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children. **Our All-Church Cookie Exchange** is today. 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.

The Longest Night Services are tonight in Monteith Hall at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. These services, especially for those who are coping with sadness at this time, recognize the increasing darkness that comes with the Winter Solstice, look to the hope of returning life, and the gift of Light in Christ. These services, led by Rev. Rogers, include moving hymns, the music of harp and flute, and candles of remembrance. Stephen Ministers will provide hot cider and cookies for a time of fellowship afterwards.

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.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

Mids, our middle school youth group, do not meet tonight. **Keystones**, our high school youth group, meet for a Christmas party at 5:30 p.m. at the Tichenors' house. See Rev. Dr. Monnett for more information. Full youth programming resumes January 8.

Adult Education Opportunities:

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 meet 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*. Explore the rich biblical passages of *Messiah* in class sessions led by Rev. Sanderford and the Resident Ministers of First Pres.

Are you a college student or young adult interested in helping special needs children in Russia? We hope to travel to Davydovo, Russia in the summer of 2017 to spend a week working with special needs families. If you are interested, join us for a free lunch at Pizza House today at 12:30 p.m. Meet Rev. Béghin in the Welcome Center to walk together.

T2A2 Small Group meets off-site today at 7:00 p.m. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, a working professional or a grad student, we invite all in their twenties and thirties to come and build community with us. For more information, please contact Rev. Ryo or Rev. Ervin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All women are invited to Presbyterian Women's Bible Study and Program this Wednesday, December 21. Alice Gaujanian will lead 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.

Christmas Pageant dress rehearsal is this Wednesday, December 21, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m., in the Sanctuary. Please note that this is a time change. Contact Debbie MacVey if you have questions.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, December 23, 5:30 p.m., at Panda House, 229 N. Maple Road. All are welcome.

Year-End Finance Information: Please consider making a year-end gift to support the ministries of First Pres! The IRS requires that 2016 books be closed on 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.

All women are invited to join Women's Bible Study, Tuesday, January 10, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room, for a seven-week study of the book of Jonah. For more information contact Lois Nissly (761-2925), Anne Kloack (973-2826), Lorna Prescott (255-5296), or Mary Kay Gray (971-7079).

Christmas Eve Worship – December 24

Family Worship and Pageant	3:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols	5:00 p.m. (Rutter <i>Gloria</i> at 4:30 p.m.)
Lessons and Carols	7:00 p.m. (Rutter <i>Gloria</i> at 6:30 p.m.)
Candlelight Communion	11:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Parking – Note an important change:

Please be considerate in parking choices as many visitors join us for worship on Christmas Eve. Overflow parking is available only at the Forest Street parking structure, a short walk down Forest Court, for our able-bodied members. **Parking is not available this year at nearby sorority houses.**

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 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.

Children are invited to bring a special offering to the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. It is tradition for children to bring a gift of new socks and underwear in any size wrapped in tissue paper. Gifts are given to House by the Side of the Road for distribution to families in need.

Christmas Day Worship – December 25

Family Worship	10:00 a.m.
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New Year's Day Worship – January 1, 2017

Family Worship and Communion	10:00 a.m.
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The 2016 Christmas Eve offering will provide clean water and safe, sturdy housing to Haitians after Hurricane Matthew wrecked thousands of homes in October. Gifts will be divided equally between Living Waters for the World which helps small communities build water systems to supply clean water and The Building Goodness Foundation's Rapid Re-Housing Project for families whose homes were lost. 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 hosts the Rotating Shelter January 2 – 16, 2017. Sleeping space will be provided for 25 men referred by the Shelter Association. Volunteers are needed for evening and overnight hosts each night, drivers are needed on weekend mornings, and donations of hot food, snacks, gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, and new long underwear are requested. Sign up on our church website or on the board in the Welcome Center. Contact Rev. Rogers, Jeanette Middleton (msjett@aol.com), or John Yodhes (677-4036) for more information.

Dr. Fair will lead "Poets, Priests, and Prophets", a trip to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, May 18 – 27. Deposit deadline is January 19. For more information, contact Dr. Fair or Mary Jones in the Church Office.

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. The deadline for sign-up is December 27. For more information, contact Carol or Paul Smith (psmith6641@aol.com) or Rev. Rogers.

Christmas gifts to the homeless were recently given by First Pres Wednesday evening greeting card program volunteers at the Delonis Center. Shelter guests were grateful to receive 125 hats and packages of heavy socks as well as Christmas cards and stamps allowing them to keep in contact with their families and friends during the holidays.

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 Minister:
 Lex Allum
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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