



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 24, 2015
SERVICE OF COMMUNION

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP
11:00 p.m.



Beuronese Nativity © 2014 Nicholas Markell | EyeKons

Welcome to all! A special welcome to guests and newcomers. Let us know of your presence by signing the red pad which is at the end of each pew. Please introduce yourself to a minister after the service.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Fair

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 9:2, 6

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.**

One: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us:

All: **authority rests upon his shoulders
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Dr. Monnett

We come to adore you, Christ the Lord, Son of God, Prince of Peace! On this holy night, as we remember and celebrate your birth, we bless you for the glories of your righteousness and wonders of your love, your tender approach to us and your steadfast presence through all our lives and into life everlasting. Hear our words that sing your praise and use our lives to share your light. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

* HYMN 40

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

Rev. Béghin

HYMN 37

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE ŁEZY

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-7

Daniel Ervin

HYMN 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

THIRD READING

John 1:1-5

Rev. Ryo

* HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

FOURTH READING

John 1:14

Rev. Dr. Fair

HOMILY

HYMN 47

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL

* A CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel begun in Bethlehem; in the One whose spirit glorified a small village and for whom there was no room at the inn; in the One whose life changed the course of history, over whom the rulers of the earth have no power, and who is not understood by the proud.

I believe in the One who gives welcome to the oppressed, the discouraged, the sick, and the blind; the One who changes hearts with love and who with his life shows that it is better to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is giving one's life for others.

I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war but justice among all people and nations and love among all.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of God, and in the strength and majesty of Christ.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Sanderford

Offertory

Before the Marvel of This Night

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light
And with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
That fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace.
Sing peace, sing gift of peace.

Awake the sleeping world with song.
This is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
In royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss,
A teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss.
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss.

The love that we have always known,
Our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown,
Now break upon it deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
That rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love.
Sing Love, sing God is love.

Text by Jaroslave J. Vajda

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Fair

Rev. Rogers

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

All communion cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are located in the center cup on each wafer tray.

Communion Music	<i>Noël nouvelet</i>	French carol arr. John Rutter
	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Adolphe Adam

Prayer After Communion

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

At the candle lighting, the ministers will move down the center aisle to light the first candle in each pew. Each person in turn will light the candle of the next worshiper. Remember to keep the lighted candle upright when sharing the light.

Please remain seated.

Carol Sing

**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.**

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**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.**

BENEDICTION

Please extinguish your candle after receiving the benediction. Carry the light of the Christ child in your hearts as Christmas morning breaks, and know the blessing of Emmanuel, God with us.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

*** POSTLUDE**

* Please stand 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 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.

Musicians providing worship leadership this evening include Jeffrey Lewandowski, trumpet; Paul Lewis, trumpet; Carrie Banfield-Taplin, horn; Joe McInchak, trombone; Martha Farmer, bass trombone; Carol Muehlig, organ; Doris Granum, soprano; and Chancel Choir.

The ushers are Bill Austin (head), Dick Cooke (captain), Mark Fogarty, Jim Douglass, Jeannette Middleton, Anna Cooke, and Marolin Bellefleur.

The 2015 Christmas Eve offering will be sent to Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti to improve access to mental health services. Our gifts will enable patients to see trained therapists, counselors and social workers. Please use the special Christmas Eve offering envelopes to support this ministry and mark your check "Hope." **If you wish to direct your offering toward your tithe or pledge, please indicate "church" on your check and place it directly in the offering plate.**

Join us for "Joy to the World" – A Festival of Carols and Hymns for Christmas on Sunday, December 27, at 10:00 a.m. Come early and enjoy coffee and fellowship. Rev. Béghin will give the homily. There are no other worship services that day. Childcare will be provided for crib through age five. The service will include many Christmas hymns and carols, along with solo organ repertoire by J. S. Bach, Louis-Claude Daquin, Johannes Brahms Michael Burkhardt and Paul Manz. Tom Granum will be the organist for the service.

The church building will be closed December 25, 26, 28, and January 1.

Year-End Finance Information: The IRS requires that we close our books for 2015 on December 31. Make sure you allow sufficient time for your donation to make it to the office for your contribution to be applied to your 2015 statement. If the Finance Office door is locked, use the mail slot. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year, and must be renewed each year. A new form is available on the First Pres website or in the Finance Office. 2016 envelopes will be available for pickup beginning December 27.

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

Daniel Ervin

Reverend Angela Ryo

Peer Ministers:

Alexis Allum

Andy Spaulding

Sandy Talbott, Parish Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Lynnette Conner, Finance Manager

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Michael Wright, Maintenance & Repair Manager

Lisa Hadrill, Technology Coordinator

Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant

Cindy King, Administrative Assistant

Anna Miller, Finance Assistant

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

1432 Washtenaw Avenue

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-662-4466

info@firstpresbyterian.org

www.firstpresbyterian.org