



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 24, 2016
SERVICE OF COMMUNION

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP
11:00 p.m.



Royal Baby © 2016 John Stuart

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 Daniel Washington

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Béghin

HYMN 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:6-7 Rev. Ryo

SECOND READING Matthew 1:18-23 Rev. Sanderford

HYMN 37 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* W ZŁOBIE ŁEZY

THIRD READING Luke 2:1-7 Rev. Ervin

HYMN 44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

FOURTH READING Luke 2:8-14 Rev. Dr. Fair

HOMILY *Not a Fairy Tale*

* **HYMN 31** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

* **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 Jesus, the Christ, who welcomes the oppressed, the discouraged, the sick, and the blind; who changes hearts with love and who, with his life, shows that it is better to serve than to be served.

Christ calls us to live in peace, to work for justice among all people and nations, and to love one another. I look to the strength and majesty of Christ, believe in reconciliation and forgiveness, and trust the transforming power of God.

* **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

Prayer After Communion

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 worshipper. 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.

We thank the choral and instrumental musicians for their leadership this evening, including Daniel Washington, bass; Angie Noble, oboe; Jeffrey Lewandowski, trumpet; Paul Lewis, trumpet; Carrie Banfield-Taplin; horn; Joe McInchak, trombone; and Martha Farmer, bass trombone.

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

The 2016 Christmas Eve offering will provide clean water and safe, sturdy housing to Haitians after Hurricane Matthew contaminated water sources and wrecked thousands of homes. Gifts will be divided equally between Living Waters for the World, a Presbyterian mission project that helps small communities build and operate systems to supply clean water, and The Building Goodness Foundation, that builds replacement houses for families. Please mark your check or envelope "Haiti" to support this effort.

Christmas Day Worship – December 25

Family Worship 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day Worship – January 1, 2017

Family Worship and Communion 10:00 a.m.

The January Communion Food Collection is for Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also feed others and support those in need. Your food donations or financial contributions are appreciated.

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

Year-End Finance Information:

Please consider a year end gift to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. 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. **If you have not yet made a commitment for 2017 know that every gift makes a difference.** The session will be approving the 2017 budget in January. Let them know they can count on you! Financial Commitment and Opportunities to Serve forms are available online and in the Finance Office. 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.

First Pres hosts the Rotating Shelter January 2 – 16, 2017. Sleeping space will be provided for 25 men referred by the Shelter Association. Evening volunteers and overnight hosts are needed 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. Contact Rev. Rogers, Jeannette Middleton (msjett@aol.com), or John Yodhes (677-4036) to find out how you can help.

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
Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist



1432 Washtenaw Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-662-4466
info@firstpresbyterian.org
www.firstpresbyterian.org