

First Sunday of Christmas

Family Sunday

December 27, 2020

THOSE
WHO *will not*
DREAM *keep silent*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star: to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Christian Heinrich Rinck

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,

All: We speak of love.

One: We speak of joy.

All: We speak of candle light and fireside.

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

All: We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.

One: We speak the words, “Do not be afraid.”

All: Here on the heels of Christmas, we are called to speak, for the world needs a light.

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.

HYMN 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

This Hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of today and tomorrow,

We know that your fingerprints are all over this world.

In the beginning, it was you who spoke over the water and brought forth creation. And then it was you who asked, “Cain, where is your brother?” It was you who spoke to Elijah in a still, small, voice. And it was you, through angels, who spoke to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. You have always been speaking— In words, in memories, in songs, and in dreams.

We know that those who dream cannot keep silent.

And so we come to you today, asking for the strength to join our voices to yours. Open our ears to hear the voices of those crying out.

Open our mouths to speak aloud your dream for this world.

Give us eyes to see you. Give us courage to trust you. And give us lips to speak of you in our midst.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*This is the Refrain of Hymn 113, *Angels We Have Heard on High* (GLORIA).*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22–40

The grass withers; the flower fades— **the word of our God endures forever.**

SERMON

The Work of Christmas

In the Prayer for Illumination we ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand the scripture reading. “Illumination” is the act of shining light on something. We pray God will give us new understandings of the reading, or shine the light for us to see and understand what we hear.

RESPONDING AND SEALING

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jazminn Eddins presents her daughter, Lilly Elizabeth Eddins, born July 15, 2020, for baptism.

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water and Baptism

Hymn 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM

Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
a - tion, loved in deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.

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OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest, music
Howard Thurman, text

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins, to find the lost,
to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations;
to bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

Doxology

THE FIRST NOWELL



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host, Cre -
a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
ell, Now - ell! Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

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.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: online on the First Pres homepage ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below. (Call Finance Manager Anna Miller if you need assistance.)



SENDING

HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -
her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness
and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,
and
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

This is the Refrain of Hymn 136, *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* (GO TELL IT).

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Ou s'en vont ces gays bergers* Nicolas Lebeque

Did you notice that the singers now have new masks? These are special masks for singers that have extra filter protection inside the masks and an extended frontal piece. These have been provided to our singers by the Safety Committee. The singers are practicing social distancing as they sing.

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshiping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l>

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Jay Sanderford; Liturgists – Khayla Johnson and Mark Mares; Scripture Reader – CeCe Musser; Children’s Message – Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Amy Ruhf; Soloists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, David Magumba, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler

Chancel Flowers are given in loving memory of Betty Jean Byrne by Earl Avery and her family and by Ellen Johnson in loving memory of her parents J. Frederic and Carolyn Johnson.

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary. For the first 20–30 minutes, we have group conversation, and then we split into small groups. Around 11:15, Coffee Hour conversations end. If you have questions or need help, please contact Rev. Rogers. **Special guest is Technology Coordinator Lisa Haddrill** who is leaving First Pres after nine years of service. Coffee Hour will be a time to celebrate Lisa and to send her off with our gratitude and blessing. Click here to enter Coffee Hour: <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday is Communion Sunday. As we come to the Lord’s Table to be fed and nurtured in our faith, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of December will be overseen by is the recipient of your generosity.

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for next Sunday, January 3, 2021, for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee to conduct the search for a new Lead Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. The Congregational Nominating Committee will present a slate of up to nine nominees, as directed by the Session and in accordance with our polity. Information on the nominees will be available before the meeting. This meeting, to be held virtually on Zoom (connection information is available on our website), will begin immediately after the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary with Coffee Hour following the adjournment of the meeting.

Year-End Finance Information: Please support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church with your year-end gifts. The IRS requires that books for 2020 be closed on December 31. Make sure your donation is postmarked by December 31 for your contribution to be applied to your 2020 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. 2021 Contribution Envelopes, for those who requested them, were mailed on December 16. If you do not receive them, please contact the Finance Office.

Welcome College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m. there are in-person, socially-distant college lunches. Each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. there are small group opportunities, both in-person and virtually. Contact Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Deacons will deliver home communion kits in January. If you would like a kit for Sunday, January 3, please indicate on the friendship pad or contact your Deacon.

We will not have a Taizé Prayer Service on Tuesday, January 5. We will resume services on Tuesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is now \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings, but planning only one or two weeks at a time. Please call Marcy (995–2519) if you would like more information.

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact her (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families. Beca can be reached at btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org.

Children's faith formation classes and Children's Choir do not meet as today is Family Sunday.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time. Mark can be reached at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

Youth faith formation classes do not meet as today is Family Sunday.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) at 11:00 a.m. today. All are welcome to join in the conversation based on *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton.

Exploring the Faith does not meet today.

Bible Study @ 5:00 meets via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator
Lisa Haddrill, Technology Coordinator
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families
Reverend Evans McGowan, Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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