



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 6, 2015
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



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🌿 Gathering 🌿

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Hymn 1) STUTTGART
Prepare the Way (Hymn 15) BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
Savior of the Nations, Come (Hymn 14)
NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Lift Up Your Heads MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

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

FAITH IN ACTION

Rotating Shelter
Ginny Bell (8:00)
Sean Hoskins (9:30)
Carson Smith (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when your sons and daughters will prophecy.
**All: Young people will see visions, and older people
will dream dreams.**
One: Even while we walk in darkness,
All: we know God's light will break forth.

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. Today, we light the candle of Peace. Candlelighters are Jeanne and Al Monich at 8:00 a.m.; Jaymin Kim and Sara McAdory at 9:30 a.m.; and JoLynn, John, Alexandra, and Madeline Montgomery at 11:00 a.m.

One: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in peace,
the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world.

All: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Choral Response *Light One Candle* Natalie Sleeth

Prayer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ, our Lord and our light, we confess we often seek out the shadows rather than daring to have our thoughts and deeds exposed for all to see. We regret some decisions and are ashamed of others. We measure what we can get away with rather than weighing what is right. Work such love within us that we seek to honor you with all we do, for we ask it in Christ's name.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

* 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 Sharon Sheldon (8:00)
Kate Silbert (9:30)
Sharon Rothwell (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 130:1-6
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30/11:00)
Children through grade five are invited forward.

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 3:1-7; 17-21
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Lovers of Darkness* Rev. Dr. Fair

Responding

* HYMN 313

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

WELCOME

Daniel Ervin (9:30)

Rev. Béghin (11:00)

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

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory (9:30/11:00) *O Day Full of Grace*

Danish folk hymn
arr. F. Melius Christiansen

O day full of grace, which we behold
now gently to view ascending,
thou over the earth thy reign unfold,
good cheer to all mortals lending,
that children of light in ev'ry clime
may prove that the night is ending.

How blest was that gracious midnight hour
when God in our flesh was given;
then flushed the dawn with light and pow'r
that spread o'er the darkened heaven;
then rose o'er the world that sun divine
which gloom from our hearts hath driven.

Yea, were ev'ry tree endowed with speech,
and every leaflet singing,
they never with praise God's worth could reach,
though earth with the praise be ringing.
Who fully could praise the light of life
who light to our souls is bringing?

With joy we depart for the promised land.
And there we shall walk in endless light.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power— and might,
Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
san - na in the high - est, — ho - san - na in the high-est.

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 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

Please join the choir by singing the text in bold. William P. Rowan
Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

**The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.**

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world, the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

**Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures,
once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.**

Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain

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Prayer After Communion

Sending

* **HYMN 5** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

Please bring your offering of food forward to the front. Monetary donations may be put in the special communion envelope and placed in the baskets.

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

* **POSTLUDE**

* Please rise in body or spirit.

Our Advent theme for this year, *Darkness into Light*, is reflected in our scriptural texts, music, and artwork. Together we prepare for the Light which is coming into the world. 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 are Lorna Prescott and Peggy Jensen. **Church Office volunteers** are Ruth Weber and Elsa Stuber. **Greeters** are Deb and Mike Lisull and Gwen Alexander at 9:30 a.m.; and John and Dawn Pankopf and Gwen Alexander at 11:00 a.m.

Ushers are Bill Austin (head) and Dale Leslie at 8:00 a.m.; Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Len Rezmierski, Olivier Jolliet, Dean Gilchrist, Carol Smith, Rachel Dudley, and Mitchell Dudley at 9:30 a.m.; and Bill Austin (head), Brady West (captain), Jim Douglass, Alice Gaujanian, Rohn Federbush, Bev Pelletier, and Jeanette Middleton at 11:00 a.m.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the piano, after the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Prayer team members are Carol Gottlieb and Diane Knibbs following the 9:30 a.m. service, and Gale Redding and Helena Prince following the 11:00 a.m. service. After the 8:00 a.m. service a minister is available at the Communion Table for prayer. "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world." - Karl Barth

Musical leadership is provided by Chancel Choir at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Children's Choir at 9:30 a.m., and Youth Choir at 11:00 a.m. Members of The Recorder Ensemble, directed by Linda Speck, are Nicole Jolliet, Diane Knibbs, Ann Ringia, Marian West, and Bruce Loughry. **Today's communion music**, a choral/organ setting of *Light Dawns on a Weary World* by Michael Burkhardt, is being presented for the first time as a gift from the composer/arranger in honor of Doris and Tom Granum. Several of his Christmas carol and hymn settings will be presented for our 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 27: "*Joy to the World*" – *A Festival of Christmas Carols and Hymns*.

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Almira and Hubert White by their daughter Jean. **The red rosebud** is in celebration of the birth of Ethan Anthony Jackson, son of Sarah and Brent Jackson, and grandson of Tony and Susan Sweet Scott, on November 17, 2015.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Worship is at 8:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **Radio Worship service is broadcast at 11:00 a.m.**, on WAAM (1600 AM), and on WAAM's website, www.waamannarbor.com.

Communion Food Collection is today. 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. Today's financial contributions and food donations are for Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor.

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall following the 9:30 a.m. worship service for homemade cookies and Fair Trade Coffee. **Cookie bakers** are Doris Granum, Ginny Horan, Elsa Stuber, and Kathy Wirstrom.

The doors to the Social Hall open at 5:00 p.m. for this evening's 5:30 p.m. **All-Church Christmas Dinner**. If you have already made a reservation and have paid you may pick up your ticket(s) this morning between services in the Social Hall or tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center. An announcement will be made in worship indicating whether any seats remain available.

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.

Festival Choir rehearsal is 10:30 – 10:50 a.m. in Room 400. Children, grades K-5, are encouraged to sing this Advent season. Come to the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings, December 6, 13 and/or 20, to sing even if you have not previously attended rehearsal.

Parents are encouraged to attend today's **Christmas Pageant Parent Meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room. The pageant is part of our 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship and includes children, age 3 through grade 5, as well as middle-school youth assistants and leaders. Children and youth participating need to be registered online by December 7.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

Munch & Mingle is at 9:20 a.m. in the 100 level hallway.

Sunday School classes meet 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Youth Choir rehearses 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Adult Education Opportunities:

The Bible @ 9:30 meets in the French Room/Library for exploration and discussion centered on the Gospel of John. The presenter is Rev. Koster.

First Couples meets at 9:30 a.m. in Monteith Hall to explore *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*.

Exploring the Faith and Common Ground combine at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall for *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night: An Advent Bible Study* with Daniel Ervin, presenter.

T2A2 Does Bible, fellowship and study for young adults, meets at noon in the Founders Room.

Join our church family – one class only! Everyone already “belongs” at First Pres, but maybe you are ready to make it official. Come to our new member class today, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., in the Curtis Room, and officially join at the new member breakfast next Sunday, December 13.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family-to-Family Christmas Program. Adopt a local family in need today during Coffee Hour. Contributions may also be made by using the special pew envelopes. Volunteers are needed to deliver gifts on Sunday afternoon, December 20. For more information on the program and to volunteer, check out the First Pres website.

The First Pres Pancake Supper for over 200 college students is Tuesday, December 15, at 10:00 p.m. Sign up for a volunteer spot on the First Pres website.

Give Fair Trade Coffee – The Gift that Gives Twice. Are you searching for that perfect Christmas present for a friend or loved one? Are you in need of a thoughtful host or hostess gift? Your purchase of Fair Trade coffee at First Pres supports a just wage for coffee farmers and underwrites First Pres' cost of serving Fair Trade Coffee at Coffee Hour. Purchase coffee and/gift certificates during Coffee Hour today and next Sunday or stop by the Church Office during the week.

T2A2 Opportunities:

This Tuesday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m., the young adults group will be caroling at Whitehall Nursing Home. Please wear red or green.

Next Sunday, at 2:00 p.m., the group will have a cookie and white elephant gift exchange at the home of Catalina Esguerra.

Are you 60 and up? Join Hilltoppers at noon this Thursday, December 10, in the Social Hall for a hot lunch (\$5) and presentation by Joseph W. Ho, UM Ph.D student in history. Joseph will talk to us about the work of Protestant and Catholic missionaries in China in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Make your reservations in the Church Office.

Hospital and Rehab Visits. Please do not assume that the pastors know that you or other church members are in the hospital or home with a lengthy illness. Please call the Church Office at 662-4466 and let us know so that we can pray and extend a hand in prayer and care.

You are invited to these concerts we are hosting in our sanctuary. Saturday, December 12, 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. – The Boychoir of Ann Arbor presents their Christmas concerts, "A Boychoir Christmas." Tickets are available in advance or at the door.

Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m., a free concert by 14-year old violin prodigy Kay Cee Galano who recently won the 2015 world concerto competition in Beijing.

Mature Singles meet for dinner this Friday, December 11, at 5:30 p.m., at Outback Steakhouse, 3173 Oak Valley Drive. All are welcome.

Glacier Hills Advent Worship is Monday, December 14. Our pastoral and program staff and Deacons Karen Gardstrom and John Yodhes invite your participation. We begin gathering in the Hanson Room at 10:00 a.m.

The Longest Night Services are in Monteith Hall Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. These services, especially for all who are coping with sadness at this time, recognize the increasing darkness that comes with the Winter Solstice, and look to the hope of returning life, and the gift of Light in Christ. These services, led by Rev. Rogers, include moving hymns, candles of remembrance, and the music of harp and flute. The Stephen Ministers will provide hot cider and cookies for a time of fellowship afterwards.

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 reach the office for your contribution to be applied to your 2015 financial statement. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year, and a new form must

be filled out annually. It is available on the First Pres website or in the Finance Office.

Worship on Christmas Eve at one of these services:

Family Worship & Pageant	3:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols	5:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols	7:00 p.m.
Candlelight Communion	11:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir, harp, brass, organ and woodwinds will present a 30-minute prelude of Christmas music before the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Services of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. Childcare is available for children age 4 and under at the 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m. services. Contact the Church Office for childcare reservations.

Join us for “Joy to the World” – A Festival of Carols and Hymns for Christmas on Sunday, December 27, at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Béghin will give the homily. There are no other worship services that day. Childcare will be provided for crib through age five.

The Church will be closed Christmas Day, December 28, and January 1.

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 Haddrill, Technology Coordinator
- Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor’s Assistant
- Cindy King, Administrative Assistant
- Anna Miller, Finance Assistant
- Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

