

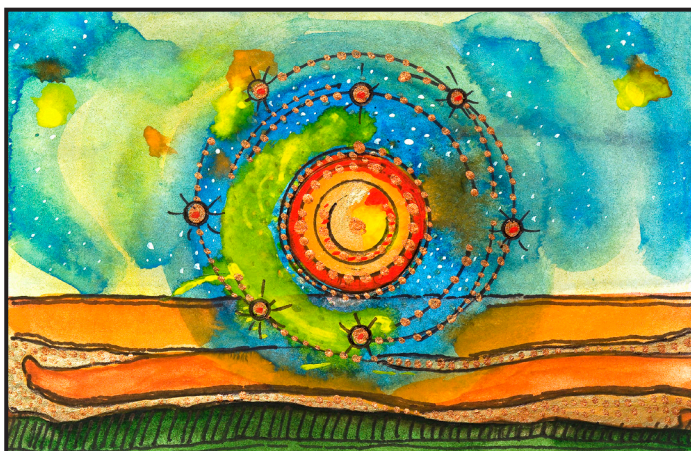


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 13, 2015  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



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## 🌿 Gathering 🌿

**PRELUDE**

*Advent Carol*

arr. Hal Hopson

**LIFE IN THE CHURCH**

Rev. Sanderford (8:00)

Rev. Ryo (9:30)

Rev. Sanderford (11:00)

**FAITH IN ACTION** Christmas Joy Offering

Ruth Barnard (8:00)

Carol Smith (9:30)

Bob Wallin (11:00)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**All: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow  
of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

One: Rejoice, people of God! The Lord, who forgives our sin, is  
coming to dwell among us.

\* **HYMN 9**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

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## 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 Joy. Candlelighters are Marilyn Simpson at 8:00 a.m.; Paul, Karen, Joey, and Aaron Wisniewski at 9:30 a.m.; and Sarah Sewell-Conley, Savannah Sewell-Conley, and Denali Gere at 11:00 a.m.*

One: Prepare the way of the Lord.  
We light this candle in joy,  
the hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.

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

**Choral Response**      *Light One Candle*      Natalie Sleeth

### Prayer

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Emmanuel, God with us, you know our thoughts without our having to say a word. You know our needs and all the times we fail to do what is right. You know the ways we resist your will and fail to see your light in those around us. Move us from fear and release us from the hold of anger that we might prepare to welcome your reign and embrace your joy.**

## 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

Jim Dickinson (8:00)  
John Whittier Ferguson (9:30)  
Cindy Lambrides (11:00)

### OLD TESTAMENT READING    Zephaniah 3:14-20

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

### A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30/11:00)

Rev. Rogers (9:30)  
*Children through grade five are invited forward.*

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**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Luke 1:68-79

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

**SERMON**

Rev. Ryo (8:00)

*Light Will Dawn*

Rev. Dr. Fair (9:30/11:00)

 **Responding** 

\* **HYMN 462**

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

RATISBON

**WELCOME**

Daniel Ervin (9:30)

Rev. Béghin (11:00)

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

**WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (9:30)**

Jim Cameron

*New members joining the church today are Armando Tena, Nancy Tena, Margie Dahlstrom, Jim Judson, Marjo Grabowski, Matt Grabowski, Sarah Dudgeon, Luke Panning, Katherine Panning, Karen Al-Saadi, Jeanette Brock, Ken Brock, Deborah Campbell, Jim Campbell, and Susie Reynolds. Being received from the last new member class is Rachel Dudley.*

**Reception of New Members**

**Hymn of Welcome** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:**

**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

**Offertory (9:30/11:00)** Anthems of Light

*Heavenly Light*

Alexander Kopylov

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O Light Divine! May each soul in sorrow's night, see the heavenly light! Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation! All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar! Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray! Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise Thee!

*Lord, Send Thy Light*

Mily Balakirev

ed. Michael Burkhardt

Lord, send thy light, send forth thy truth, let them be guides to me; and bring me to thy holy hill, even unto thy dwelling place. My soul shall put its trust in God, for I shall thank and praise God, who is my help, my salvation, and my God.

*Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light*

J. S. Bach

from *Christmas Oratorio*

Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light and usher in the morning;  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.  
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

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\* **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (8:00)

*See Communion Card*

**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.

 **Sending** 

\* **HYMN 602**

*Song of Zechariah*

MERLE'S TUNE

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*Please sing the refrain when indicated:*

**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 (9:30/11:00)**

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\* 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](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org). If you have questions, please visit the **Welcome Center**, just outside the Social Hall. Greeting you there today are Pru Heikkinen and Barbara Mueller. **Church Office volunteers** are Bill and Pat Fuerstenau. **Greeters** for the 9:30 a.m. service are Jane Hayes and Jan Fisher; and Nancy Heikkinen and Dick and Sue Rigterink for the 11:00 a.m. service.

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**Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Dale Leslie at 8:00 a.m.; Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Olivier Jolliet, Nicole Jolliet, Dean Gilchrist, Carol Smith, Jinx Cooke, Dick Cooke, and Charlotte Anderson 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 Heidi Dodson and Evonne Plantinga following the 9:30 a.m. service, and Don Redding and Elsa Stuber following the 11:00 a.m. service. After the 8:00 a.m. service a minister is available at the Communion Table for prayer. “Lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.” – C. S. Lewis

**Musical leadership** is provided by Children’s Festival Choir (9:30); Ensemble from Youth Choir (11:00); Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir (9:30 and 11:00); and Chancel Choir (9:30 and 11:00).

## **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](http://www.waamannarbor.com).

**Join us for Coffee Hour** in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service for homemade cookies and Fair Trade Coffee. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children.

**Cookie bakers** are Marlene Stoeffler, Carole Hendrickson, Elsa Stuber, and Diane Hockett.

### **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.

### **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.

**Mids Christmas party** is at 12:15 p.m. at the Crawfords’ home.

**Keystones** youth group meets 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

### **Adult Education Opportunities:**

**The Bible @ 9:30** meets in the French Room/Library for Bible 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.

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

**T2A2 Cookie and White Elephant Gift Exchange** is at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Catalina Esguerra.

**You are invited to a free concert** today at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Kay Cee Galano, a 14-year old violin prodigy who recently won the 2015 world concerto competition in Beijing, will perform works by Brahms, Elgar, Saint-Saens, Dinicu-Heifetz, Massenet, and de Sarasate.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Advent Devotionals** written by members and staff help spiritually lead us through this holy season. Hard copies are available in the Church Office for those who do not use the internet.

**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.

**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 or stop by the Church Office during the week.

**The First Pres College Pancake Supper** is this Tuesday, December 15. We expect to serve over 200 hungry students from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Volunteers and financial donations are still needed. Contact Peer Minister Andy Spaulding if you are able to help.

**Presbyterian Women Opportunities for Wednesday, December 16:** **Bible Study** is at 9:30 a.m. in Monteith Hall. **Holiday Brunch (\$7) and Music Program** begin at 10:45 a.m. in the Social Hall. Contact the Church Office by noon tomorrow to sign up for brunch.

**Choir Robes will be ordered this month.** If you would like to sponsor a robe (\$160), please make your check payable and indicate if you would like it given in memory of someone (deceased) or in honor of someone (living).

**Mature Singles** meet for dinner this Friday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m., at Metzger's German Restaurant, 305 N. Zeeb Road. All are welcome.

**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 for and extend a hand in prayer and care.

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**The Mature Ministries Program** has interesting lectures, trips, and conversations that you are invited to join. Our monthly gathering is a lunch and learn event called "Hilltoppers." If you are not getting our email news update and are age 60 and up, contact Lisa Haddrill (lhaddrill@firstpresbyterian.org).

**The Longest Night Services** are in Monteith Hall Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. These services, open to 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.

**Worship on Christmas Eve at 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.

Please be considerate in parking choices as many visitors join us for worship on Christmas Eve. Hillel (1429 Hill Street), Sigma Delta Tau (1405 Hill Street), and Kappa Alpha Theta (1414 Washtenaw Avenue) have granted the use of their parking lots. We also recommend the Forest Street parking structure, (650 S. Forest Avenue), a short walk down Forest Court, for our able-bodied members.

**Children's Ministry on Christmas Eve:**

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 or your family 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.

It is tradition for children to bring a gift of new socks and underwear in any size to the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant. These gifts are given to the House-by-the-Side-of-the-Road for distribution to families in need.

**Our Christmas Eve offering is for the Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti and will be directed toward improving access to mental health services.** For many, mental health issues interfere with their ability to stay in school or work, or take care of themselves and their families. Our gifts will enable patients to see trained therapists, counselors and social workers.

**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.

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

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

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#### **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



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