

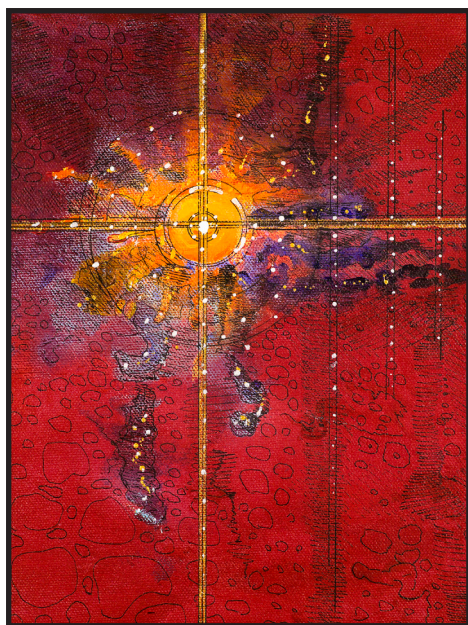


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 20, 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



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🌿 Gathering 🌿

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

Natalie Sleeth

O come, O come, Immanuel,
Come now to earth and with Thy people dwell.
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign.
O come and show to us the light divine.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
As age to age the prophets did foretell;
Redeemer, come to save us one and all,
Be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.

For Thy coming we prepare,
Wisdom from on high.
Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair:
Now to us draw nigh.

O come, O come, Immanuel,
And free Thy children, Israel.
Be now our hope, our comfort from above,
And bless us all with everlasting love.

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovyeh

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It is getting close, my friends!

All: God is coming to us! God will dwell with us!

One: The true light, which enlightens everyone,
is coming into the world.

**All: Let us press on to know the Lord,
whose appearing is as certain as the dawn.**

* HYMN 11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

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 Love. Candlelighters are Kathy and Kurt Hillig at 8:00 a.m.; Spaulding, Kathy, and Lindsay Clark at 9:30 a.m.; and Sue Dempsey and Greg Czarnecki 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

Holy God, we confess that there are many things which we allow to get in the way of our loving you, those around us, and ourselves. There also are many things that distract us from your call on our lives or that cause us to doubt your presence among us. Even as the days become few before the celebration of the birth of your Son, we harbor resentments and are harried by holiday preparations. Quiet the noise that prevents our hearing your tidings of good joy. Ready us to greet the light which is dawning. We pray as your needy people, as children who need to know your peace.

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

Margie Perrett (8:00)
Scott Ellsworth (9:30)
Jane Dutton (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Hosea 5:15–6:3

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

ANTHEM (9:30/11:00)

And the Glory of the Lord G. F. Handel
from *Messiah*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

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

Children through grade five are invited forward.

Rev. Dr. Monnett (9:30)

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 1:6-9

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

SERMON

Daniel Ervin (8:00)
Rev. Dr. Fair (9:30/11:00)

 Responding 

* **HYMN 22**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

WELCOME

Rev. Rogers (9:30/11:00)

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

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory (9:30/11:00)

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion G. F. Handel
from *Messiah*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

* **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 40**

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing. . . .**

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

* 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 today are Mary Ann Pierce and Judy Landau. **Church Office volunteers** are Ruth Weber and Cynthia Wilbanks. **Greeters** for the 9:30 a.m. service are Carolyn Schultz and John and Val Yodhes; and David and Carol Downton, Gail Grady, and Clem and Margo Gill for the 11:00 a.m. service.

Ushers are Bill Austin (head) and Dale Leslie at 8:00 a.m.; Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Len Rezmierski, Olivier Jolliet, Nicole Jolliet, Lee Roberts, Dean Gilchrist, Carol Smith, Jinx Cooke, and Dick Cooke at 9:30 a.m.; and Bill Austin (head), Brady West (captain), Jim Douglass, Alice Gaujanian, 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 Paul Kirton and Evonne Plantinga following the 9:30 a.m. service, and Carole Hendrickson and Marolin Bellefleur following the 11:00 a.m. service. After the 8:00 a.m. service a minister is available at the Communion Table for prayer. "Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." – James 5:16

Musical leadership is provided by Children's Festival Choir (9:30); Youth Choir (9:30/11:00); Lorna Young Hildebrandt, soprano (9:30/11:00); Flute Choir, Kelly McDermott, director (9:30/11:00); and Chancel Choir (9:30/11:00).

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.

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 Holly Majorprice, Diane Knibbs, Elsa Stuber, and Linda Lampman.

The Nicaragua Mission Team will not meet today.

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

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.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

Keystones Christmas Party is 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the Tichenors' home. Please bring a wrapped dvd to exchange.

Youth Sunday School and Mids youth group return January 10.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

The 2015 Christmas Eve offering will be sent to Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti and will be directed toward improving access to mental health services. 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. 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.

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.

Give Fair Trade Coffee – The Gift that Gives Twice. Are you looking for that perfect Christmas present for a friend or loved one? Are you in need of a thoughtful host or hostess gift? Purchase coffee and/or gift certificates in the Church Office during the week.

Choir robes will be ordered this month. If you would like to sponsor a robe (\$160), please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and indicate if you are giving in memory or in honor of someone.

Plan ahead for the Immature Ministries Chili cook-off at the home of Tom and Cindy Crawford, January 9, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Contact Rev. Rogers to sign up.

Are you interested in a Pilgrimage to Iona in May 2016? First Pres is planning a pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona, Scotland, May 12 – 22, 2016. Iona is both a tiny island and an ecumenical Christian community located off the west coast of Scotland. Christians have been gathering there for centuries to explore Christian community, prayer and worship. An Iona pilgrimage is a self-funded spiritual journey. Contact Daniel Ervin for more information.

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



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