



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

NOVEMBER 27, 2016
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
FAMILY WORSHIP

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



Comfort Ye My People
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🌿 Gathering 🌿

PRELUDE (9:30/11:00)

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Monnett

FAITH IN ACTION *Family-to-Family Christmas*

Julie Morrison

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 40:1-11

One: The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

All: **The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.**
The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

One: We come to prepare a way for the Lord.

All: **We come to ready ourselves for the transformation**
of our lives.

One: for the glory of the Lord will be revealed,

All: **and all people will see it.**

* **HYMN 2**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

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. Candlelighters today are Marlys Schutjer (8:00); Doug, Jenny, Griffin, and Gracie Nale (9:30); and Brian, Jill, Aubrey, and Henry Baumhover (11:00). The Children's Choir is assisting at 9:30 a.m.

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

All: **Advent means coming.**

We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom.

Choral Response *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

Prayer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Comfort, comfort you my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

* 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

Greg Buck (8:00)
Aubrey Baumhover (9:30)
Heath Monsma (11:00)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Mark 1:1-3

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:1-5

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

SERMON

Rev. Rogers

Responding

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all. We believe in Jesus the Christ - God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn - who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful. We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire. For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

* **HYMN 13**

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

WELCOME

Rev. Béghin (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) from *Messiah* G. F. Handel

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. 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. (*Isaiah 40:1-5*)

* **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)

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** *In the Depth of Winter's Darkness* REGENT SQUARE

**In the depth of winter's darkness, lost in gloomy shades of night,
all humanity stands watching, waiting for God's promised Light.
Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!**

**Now the time of preparation - with repentance, hope, resolve,
let us ready minds and spirits for the Christ who comes in love.
Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!**

**Once he came, and still he's coming, mystery both new and old -
what the hour of his new Advent prophets have not known or told.
Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!**

**Doing justice, showing mercy, praying, praising, let us wait
so that we may greet his coming, ready for the Daystar's Light.
Alleluia, alleluia, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!**

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*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*** POSTLUDE**

* Please rise 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 (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 Jim Lombard and Lynn Milroy. **The Church Office** is open this morning 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Rev. Ryo will be in the office until 10:45. Serving during the 11:00 a.m. hour is Sarah Krein. **Greeters** are Tissy and Rudy Ansbacher, Jane and Larry Peterson, Marge Higley, and Marilyn Gibson. **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Marty Reineman at 8:00 a.m.; Bill Austin (head), Len Rezmierski (captain), Joe Schmidt, Marolin Bellefleur, Dean Gilchrist, Karla and Omer Bellfi, Beth Sanderford, and Elsa and Dick Stuber at 9:30 a.m.; and Bill Austin (head), Carter Hodgson (captain), Cindy Andress, Barry and Jeanette Swartz, and Joe and Karen Cox at 11:00 a.m.

The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the piano in the Sanctuary, after the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. Prayer team member is Michele Derr. Following the 8:00 a.m. service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "Sometimes the answer to prayer is not that it changes life, but that it changes you." – James Dillet Freeman

Musical leadership for worship includes Steve Pierce, tenor; First Pres Baroque Chamber Ensemble; and Chancel Choir.

The Affirmation of Faith is written by Nathan Nettleton.

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Joanne, Ken, and Susan Kooyers by Lloyd and Marge Kooyers, and in loving memory of Lee Danielson by his wife Millie and his daughter Lisa.

TODAY'S EVENTS

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

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are Linda Lampman and Marge Higley. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children.

Children’s Ministry Opportunities:

Today is Family Sunday. Childcare is available at 9:30 a.m. for crib through age two and **classes** are held for age three through kindergarten. At 11:00 a.m., childcare is available for crib through young five-year-olds. Worship activity totes and Busy Hands activity baskets are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

Mids, our middle school youth group, meet in the Curtis Room, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. **Keystones**, our high school youth group, meet in the Youth Room, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Adult Education Opportunities:

Classes do not meet today. Join us next Sunday.

T2A2 Small Group meets off-site at 7:00 p.m. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, a working professional or a grad student, we invite all in their twenties and thirties to come and build community with us. For more information, please contact Rev. Ryo or Rev. Ervin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion Food Collection is next Sunday. As we are fed at the Lord’s Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to those in need. Please bring food donations or financial contributions for Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor.

Advent has begun! Advent, a season of waiting, cultivates our awareness of God’s actions – past, present, and future. We heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies. Our Advent worship will be based on Old Testament texts G. F. Handel used for the musical masterwork *Messiah*. Each Sunday we will hear the Word proclaimed through the spoken word and the solos and choruses from *Messiah*. For December 18 worship, the musical proclamation will be extended to 40 minutes of excerpts from Part I with soloists, choir, and chamber orchestra.

You are invited to participate in a study series for both the music lover and the biblical seeker as we explore the scriptural texts of Handel’s *Messiah*. This study offers careful examination of the texts and opens doors to our community in a new way. There are several choices for you to enter this rich study of the *Messiah*. On Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. the pastors of First Pres will lead class sessions in Monteith Hall. There will also be small group discussion sessions throughout the week led by pastors, retired pastors, and skilled discussion leaders. Sessions will be scheduled based on interest and availability. To sign up for a discussion series, please contact Rev. Sanderford.

Advent Happening, an arts and crafts event for the whole family, is next Saturday morning, December 3, 10:00 a.m. until noon. Drop in for any or all of our morning fun. There are activities for the littlest children to the biggest fun-loving adults! Friends are always welcome. Childcare is provided for infants through age two if older siblings and parents are busy at the Advent Happening. Contact Debbie MacVey to make a reservation for childcare.

Seasonal Concerts in Our Sanctuary:

An Organist's Christmas will be held Friday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. by organists Joshua Boyd, Shin-Ae Chun, and Timothy Huth and the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Admission is free.

A Boychoir Christmas will be held Saturday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m. This annual concert is presented by the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Tickets may be purchased through the Boychoir of Ann Arbor (663-5377).

A Winter Concert by the Women's Chamber Chorus will be Friday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Men's Friday Morning Study Group will meet December 2 and 16 at 8:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee and conversation as we study Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, and discuss practical, down-to-earth matters of faith. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information.

The Boy Scout Troop 7 Wreath Sale is today during Coffee Hour and next Sunday, December 4. There are two sizes of handmade wreaths. A 28" wreath is \$40 and a 24" wreath is \$30. Deck the halls and support Boy Scout Troop 7, chartered by First Pres in 1927.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, December 2, 5:30 p.m., at Olive Garden, 445 East Eisenhower Parkway. All are welcome.

Our annual Pancake Supper is Tuesday, December 13. As the semester winds down, UM students are working hard and our hospitality goes a long way. We expect to serve over 300 hungry students from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Volunteers are needed to help with outreach, setup, tear down, cooking, and serving. Please sign up on the church website or contact Peer Minister Jenna Harms (712-299-1971). Monetary donations are needed as well. To contribute, make your check out to First Presbyterian Church with "Pancake Supper" on the memo line.

First Pres opens its doors again, January 2 – 16, 2017, to provide sleeping space for up to 25 men directed here by the Shelter Association. Last winter more than 100 First Pres volunteers helped us provide shelter for this group of prescreened men who have no place to live. We are looking for evening (7:00 – 10:00 p.m.) and overnight hosts each night, and morning (around 7:00 a.m.) drivers on the weekends. Help by donating hot food, snacks, gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, and new long underwear. Veteran volunteers will be present to help orient others. Sign up at our church website or on the board in the Welcome Center. Contact Rev. Rogers, Jeanette Middleton (msjett@aol.com), or John Yodhes (677-4036) 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

Reverend Daniel Ervin

Reverend Angela Ryo

Peer Ministers:

Lex Allum

Jenna Harms

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/Children's Education Assistant

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant



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