

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 5, 2021 ♦ 9:30 a.m.



Awake My Soul
Mike Moyers



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan
Making God's Love Visible

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

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Advent 2

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. — Malachi 3:1

...the word of the Lord came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. . . "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness; Prepare the way of the Lord. . . — Luke 3:2-3

And here, in this banner, stands John, the Baptizer. His was not the soft gentle words, but rather demanding repentance, demanding that the Jews turn around, change their ways, in preparing the way of the Lord.

During the season of Advent, the Organ Voluntaries are featuring a variety of Trumpet Tunes in joyful anticipation of our Savior's birth.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Cantilena on Freu dich sehr* Thomas M. Kuras

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

HANDBELL INTROIT *Joy* Louise Frier
Sanctus Ringers

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on God's people and redeemed them.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

* **HYMN 314** *Christ, Be Our Light* CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

CALL TO CONFESSION

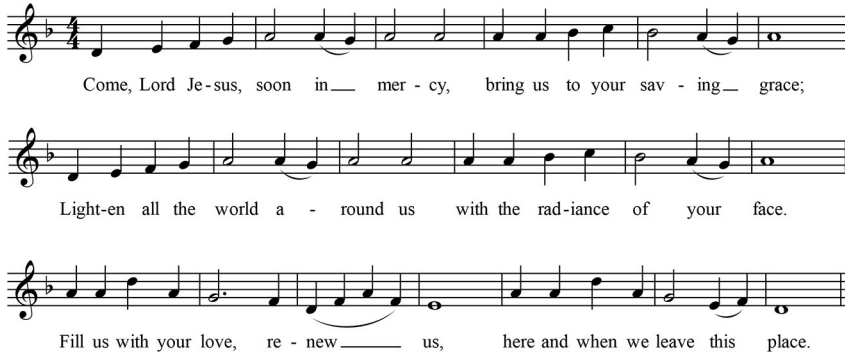
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You witness the sorts of lives we lead, Approaching God. Asked to share the gospel of hope, we place it on our to-do list instead. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray with joy in every moment, we prefer to grumble about every insignificant thing in our lives. Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for Your forgiveness to have its way in them. Fill us with Your hope so we might lighten the shadows of others...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

PICARDY



Come, Lord Je-sus, soon in— mer - cy, bring us to your sav - ing— grace;
Light-en all the world a - round us with the rad-iance of your face.
Fill us with your love, re - new — us, here and when we leave this place.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex-cel - sis De - o!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Malachi 3:1–4

Anthem *But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?* from *Messiah*
Benton DeGroot, soloist G. F. Handel

But who may abide the day of His coming?
And who shall stand when he appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire,
And who shall stand when He appeareth?

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

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:68–79

The grass withers, the flower fades; **the word of the Lord endures forever.**

SERMON

The Advent Wreath—four candles (three blue, one rose) in a perfect circle of evergreen symbolizing the eternity of God—helps us to “keep our lamps trimmed and burning” as we anticipate the coming of Christ, symbolized by the large white candle in the center.

Advent Paraments for both the Sanctuary and Monteith Halls and Stoles were designed and made by quilter and artist, Beth Taylor of Durham, NC.

Paper lace banners for Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary were designed by artist Ellen Phillips of Black Mountain, NC. Thanks go to Ellen and to the FPC members who helped cut them.

This week's Growing in God's Love Bible story, “A Prophet Is Born,” is found on page 188.

Worship Lab, a hands-on experience for our youngest disciples, is a place where children can ask questions and dig deeper into the various parts of Presbyterian Worship. Children learn what they have to offer as they discover and understand their place in the Body of Christ on Sunday mornings. Worship Lab immediately follows A Conversation with Young Disciples.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service.

Ways to give: click [online at our First Pres website...](#) via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use the Vanco Mobile app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



During his ministry, Jesus shared meals as a sign of community and acceptance. As we gather for communion, know that you are welcome in this community and accepted at Christ's table.

Come forward to receive the elements and return to your seat before partaking. The bread, made by the children during a recent Worship Lab, is dairy-, egg-, and gluten-free. Those who prefer not to come forward will be served.

RESPONDING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

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

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.

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 pow - er 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

Communion Music *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Paul Manz
Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord.
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

* HYMN 109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

In the name of Jesus —

Let us Love...**with Open Hearts!**

Let us Learn...**with Open Minds!**

Let us Serve...**with Open Arms!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Gloria!

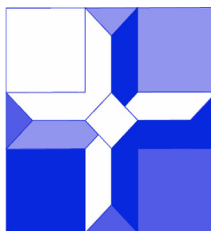
Timothy Albrecht

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the closing voluntary.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

“Christ, Be Our Light”

We can't see light itself. Instead, we can only catch glimpses of what light illuminates, like the tiny circle of light where the candle glows. We see the reflections – a face looking up to us or the beam of a flashlight cutting through the haze. In John, Jesus says that he is the Light of the World, and this is part of what he is saying. He is beyond our field of vision, but in the darkness where we stand, we see, because of him, the track that leads us forward is visible. Our Advent and Christmas theme this year reflects our deep longing for light. “Christ, Be Our Light” is our guiding theme and it flows directly from a lovely, singable hymn written by Bernadette Farrell. At the heart of it we sing our Advent desire:



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

We are glad you are here! Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l> to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website.

Worship Leaders: Welcome – Jay Sanderford; Candlelighters – Members of T2A2: Madelyn Gatchel, Sarah Lundy, Cassee Stem Progar, and Elisabeth VanVliet; Liturgists – Megan Berry, Hannah Lundberg, and Mark Mares; Scripture Reader – Georgia Goodman; Children's Message – Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Melissa Anne Rogers; Musicians – Sanctus Ringers and Chancel Choir; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Greeters – Carol Fletcher, Dawn and John Pankopf, and Nancy Tena; Ushers – Paul Smith (captain), Spaulding Clark, Holly, Aidan, and Chloe Majorprice, Carol Smith, Nicki Sorter, and Angela Yang; Welcome Center Volunteer – Anne Kloack

Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of her parents in heaven, Bernard and Ruth Dunn, by their daughter Jeanette Swartz.

Children's Choir will rehearse today at 10:30. Please meet Ms. Powell at the pulpit door.

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The prayer team is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel after the 9:30 service. Prayer team volunteers are Carol Fletcher and Diane Knibbs. "No matter what we pray for, whether it be temporal or spiritual things, little things or great things, gifts for ourselves or others, our prayers should resolve themselves into a quiet waiting for the Lord in order to hear what it is the Spirit desires to have us pray for at that particular time."—O. Hallesby

Join us for Coffee Hour and First Sunday Activity in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary. Please continue to wear your mask when not actively eating and drinking while remaining in the Social Hall. Cookie bakers are Anne Andrus, Diane Knibbs, and Nancy Tena. We will decorate and sign prayer cards for our January Rotating Shelter guests. Fair Trade coffee and chocolate bars will be on sale. These make wonderful Christmas gifts and your purchase will support the Fair Trade social justice initiative.

FAITH FORMATION TODAY @ 11:00

Fast Track to First Pres Membership! Become a member in as little as twenty minutes **TODAY**. Meet with Rev. Rogers and two Elders at 11:00 a.m., in the Lead Pastor's Office across from the Vance Room. We look forward to you joining as a full or affiliate member.

The Bible at 11 o'clock

All are welcome to join our study of Isaiah led by Rev. Ed Koster.

Exploring the Faith (Lewis Room)

Video and discussion of Amy-Jill Levine's "Light of the World: Advent."

First Friends (Lewis Room)

Video and discussion of Amy-Jill Levine's "Light of the World: Advent."

T2A2 Small Group (Founders Room)

All in their twenties and thirties are welcome to come and build community with us as we share meaningful conversations and reflect on the Word together. For more information, email t2a2@firstpresbyterian.org.

Children and Youth: First Sunday Activity (Social Hall)

Join us during and after Coffee Hour to decorate and sign prayer cards for the men we will host as part of the Rotating Shelter next month.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Advent Mission Event is TODAY, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m, in the Social Hall. Join us for a First Sunday special intergenerational mission event with Rise Against Hunger as we pack 10,000+ meals for those in need. Donations are also welcomed to help fund the cost of the meals. Contact Rev. McGowan (emcgowan@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. Donate here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchofAnnArbor>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our December Communion Food Donations and Financial Contributions support Food Gatherers, the main supplier of food to local food banks in Washtenaw County. As we are fed at the Lord's Table, we also come to feed others and lend support to our neighbors in need. Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Personal Care items are of particular need since they cannot be purchased with Bridge Cards. The most needed food items include low sodium soups, canned meats and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, nut butters, jelly, baby food and formula, and Ensure or other nutritional supplement drinks. The most needed personal care items are diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors. Donations will be coordinated by T2A2, our Young Adult Ministry.

Making God's Love Visible, Peace by Piece Stewardship Update. Thank you to all who have returned your pledge and Opportunity to Serve forms. As of November 30, we have 328 pledges for \$1,237,411, 75.1% of our goal. Every pledge counts. We do expect expenses to rise in unpredictable ways next year. It's not too late to pledge so we can continue to grow the worship, mission and programs of First Pres. Pledge forms are available in the Church Office or online at firstpresbyterian.org/contribute/donate/stewardship-2022.

Visit our new art exhibit "Finding Sanctuary during the Pandemic" by Christina Saj. "Finding Sanctuary" is displayed in the Social Hall. This body of work takes shape from the circles on which they are painted. The Pandemic collection seeks solace in aesthetics, delivering hope and faith through image, form, and color. Its intention is for each painting to bloom in our collective gardens, offering glittering rays of sunshine, the echo of children's laughter, a burst of flowers to sustain us through these tragic times. Christina Saj is a contemporary artist whose abstract paintings reveal a fascination with vivid color and rich pattern. To see more of her work please visit <http://www.saj.art>.

Our monthly Taizé Prayer Service is this Tuesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall.

Poinsettias for Christmas. If you wish to donate a poinsettia to beautify our December 19 and December 24 worship services, the cost is \$20. You can donate in memory or honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be delivered to those in need by our Deacons following those services. Thank you for your donation! Sign up either online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/w1w3mdbe1sxyhze/> or in the Main Office. The deadline is next Sunday, December 12, at midnight.

Our annual Nativity Service has a new date and time this year. It will be on Sunday, December 19, at 11:15 a.m. All children ages 3 and older are invited to participate. Children who are comfortable reading are encouraged to sign up as scripture readers. There are also non-speaking parts for a multitude of children: Star Bearers, Angels, Shepherds and Magi. The parent information meeting is TODAY, December 5, at 10:45 a.m., in our Family Space (room 301). Please sign up to participate using this link: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/nativity-worship-pageant-registration/>.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) to grab a cup of coffee or for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

The Men's Study Group meets on the first and third Friday mornings, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room, for coffee, study, and conversation. We are reading *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings* by Amy-Jill Levine. Contact Rev. Sanderford for more information at jsanderford@firstpresbyterian.org or (734) 662-4466, ext. 340.

Journeys, a Bible Study for women, meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>). Remaining date this fall is December 16. For more details contact Resident Minister and facilitator, Matthew Warfield (mwarfield@firstpresbyterian.org) or Coordinator, Beth Gerwig (bgerwig@comcast.net).

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women. There are several monthly Bible studies that all women of the church are welcome to attend. Contact Meg Brown (Imegbrown@gmail.com) for more information. PW sends out timely information in email blasts so that all women of the church may stay connected. Let Meg know if you would like to be added to the email list.

Mature Singles meet on Friday nights. Please call Marcy (995-2519) for more information.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. We meet weekly and can be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>.

The Prayer Team meets every Monday morning, 9:00–9:30 a.m., online. Would you like prayer for yourself or others? Use this form by Sunday evening: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/prayer-request/>. If you would like to join this group, email Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org) for information and the link. For those in worship today, to share a prayer today with the pastors or prayer team, please use a pew card or the friendship pad, or speak to a pastor after the service.



The Glorious Sounds of Christmas

Sunday, December 12

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church

*A festive Christmas Concert featuring Children's Choir,
Sanctus Ringers, and Chancel Choir*

Christmas Eve Worship

A Service of Lessons & Carols, 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service, 11:00 p.m.

Additional Worship Services

Nativity Service

Sunday, December 19, 11:15 a.m.

The Longest Night

Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 26

Family Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

(This is the only service on December 26.)



Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt

Accompanist / Pianist

Rev. Megan Berry

Resident Minister

Barbara DeLancey

Parish Nurse

David Hufford

Organist

Rev. Hannah Lundberg

Resident Minister

Rev. Mark Mares

Minister of Youth & Families

Rev. Evans McGowan

Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries

Stacey Pakela

Parish Nurse

Shayla Powell

Children's Choir Director

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers

Associate Pastor

Rev. Jay Sanderford

Associate Pastor

Beca Torres-Davenport

Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer

Minister of Music & Fine Arts

Rev. Matthew J. Warfield

Resident Minister



Administrative Staff

Robin Agnew

Administrative Assistant

Nick Dibacco-Vaidya

Finance Assistant

Pat Gilbreath

Welcome Center Coordinator

Almer Harris

Maintenance Specialist

Kathy Houser

Technology Coordinator

Diane Knibbs

Administrative Assistant

Anna Miller

Finance Manager

Allie Milot

Communications Coordinator

Adrian Prundeanu

Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson

Office Manager