
Choral Response *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

William P. Rowan

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.
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*.

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Prayer

* HYMN 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, bearer of light, giver of life, we confess that we have been preoccupied with many things and not given our time and attention to you and to the work you call us to do. We have squandered opportunities to show kindness and substituted being busy for preparing for your advent. Be merciful and turn us back to you. Quiet the thoughts that ravage our minds and center us in your light. We ask it in the name of Jesus, the light of the world.

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

Bruce Thomson (8:00)
Genevieve Monsma (9:30)
Josiah Shaafsma (11:00)

EPISTLE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

ANTHEM (9:30/11:00) *Keep Your Lamps!*

African-American spiritual

arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over, for the time is drawing nigh.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 25:6-11

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

SERMON

Rev. Parks-Piatt (8:00)

Be Ready!

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

 **Responding** 

* **HYMN 15**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

Please rise in body or spirit when indicated:

Stanza 1 - Soloist/Choir

Stanzas 2-3 - All

WELCOME

Rev. Rogers (9:30)

Rev. Buckley (11:00)

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

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (9:30)

Elders Marita Servais and Karla Olson-Bellfi

Joining the church today are David Burns, Dan Christensen, Leslie

Christensen, Jennifer Day, Margaret Johnston, Mary Layher, Tom Layher,

Amy Lindauer, Jason Lindauer, Karen Moorhead, Tom Murdock, Denise

Murray, Lynn Parker, Frederick Peebles, Tina Peebles, Pierre St. Amour,

Elisabeth VanVliet, Nan Welch, and Arden Wykes.

Being introduced today from a previous class is Katrine Weismantle.

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) *Keep Your Lamps*

African-American spiritual

arr. K. Lee Scott

* **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**

Soon and Very Soon

SOON AND VERY SOON

**Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!**

No more crying there: we are going to see the King. . . .

No more dying there: we are going to see the King. . . .

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. . . .

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* **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*.**

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* **POSTLUDE**

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

* 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 Anne Kloack and Mary Ann Pierce. The **Church Office** is staffed by Robin Agnew. **Greeters** are Jane Hayes and Virginia Rezmierski at 9:30; and Beth Caldwell and Sandy Herold at 11:00. **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Nancy Fox at 8:00; Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Angela Yang, Olivier Jolliet, Nicole Jolliet, Chris Wahl, Dean Gilchrist, Carol Smith, Spaulding Clark, Kathy Clark, and Dan Edwards at 9:30; and Bill Austin (head), Brady West (captain), Jeannette Middleton, Jim Douglass, Cindy Lambrides, Paul Goodman, and Georgia Goodman at 11:00. **Sound system operators** are Rol Kibler and Barry Leonard. **The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the chancel in the Sanctuary, after the 9:30 and 11:00 services. **Prayer team members** are Elsa Stuber and Diane Knibbs following the 9:30 service, and Carol Downton following the 11:00 service. Following the 8:00 service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."
- Karl Barth

Candlelighters are Paul and Carol Smith (8:00), John Byrne and Heidi Van Wieren, Schuyler, Elsie, and Marcus (9:30), and Stacey and Greg Pakela, Vincent, and Jack, and Julia and Chris Haddlesey (11:00). Ava Westfall and the Children's Choir are assisting at 9:30 and the Youth Choir at 11:00. Other musical leadership is provided by the orchestra, Chancel Choir, and Dorothy Parks-Piatt, percussion.

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Richard and Dorothy Platte by the family of Richard (Jr) and Leslie Platte; and in loving memory of Joanne, Ken, and Susan Kooyers by Lloyd and Marge Kooyers.

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 Marlene Stoeffler, Linda Lampman, and Diane Hockett. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children. **Christmas Cookie Exchange** is during Coffee Hour. Drop your homemade cookies off in the Social Hall by 9:30 a.m. During Coffee Hour volunteers will help you fill take-home containers from other bakers. If there are extra cookies, they will be made available for all to enjoy at 10:45 a.m.

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.

Children's Choir is 10:30 – 10:55 a.m. in Room 300.

Youth Ministry Opportunities:

All-Youth Munch & Mingle is in the Youth Room at 9:20 a.m.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes begin at 9:30 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal (grades 6 - 12) begins at noon. Lunch will be served.

Youth Christmas Caroling begins with cocoa and cookies at church at 2:00 p.m. Caroling will end by 4:30 p.m.

Adult Education Opportunities:

The Bible @ 9:30 is engaged in a study of the book of Acts in the French Room/Library. Rev. Ed Koster is the facilitator. All are welcome for study and robust discussion.

First Friends meet in Monteith Hall at 9:30 a.m. to discuss "Peter and Paul and the Christian Revolution," a DVD-based study. First Friends is a self-directed adult group providing a safe place for people to share concerns and receive Christian support. All are welcome.

Exploring the Faith meets at 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall to discuss "Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited: John the Baptist." Presenters are Revs. Sanderford and Koenig-Reinke.

Our Campus Ministry, UKirk@UMich, invites all college students to meet in the Welcome Center after the 11:00 a.m. service today so we can treat you to lunch.

T2A2 Opportunities:

Wherever you are in your faith journey, we invite all in their 20s and 30s to come and build community with us. For more information on T2A2, contact Rev. Parks-Piatt.

Holiday Cookie Exchange is today, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the home of Catalina Esguerra.

T2A2 Small Group meets at 7:00 p.m. at Chris Wahl's house.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tomorrow is the last day to order poinsettias (\$18) in honor or memory of a loved one. Please contact the Church Office or use the form on our website.

Letting Love Show – Stewardship Update: As of December 4, 450 pledges totaling \$1,456,194 have been received. This represents 85.7% of our \$1,700,000 goal. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help as we prepare the 2018 budget. Thank you!

Our annual Pancake Supper for UM students is this Tuesday, December 12, at 10:00 p.m. Contact Rev. Buckley to volunteer.

Join Mature Ministries (Hilltoppers) this Thursday, December 14, at noon in the Social Hall for a preview of our 2018 outing to Henry Ford's Fair Lane Estate in Dearborn. Mark Heppner, Vice President for Historic Resources at the Historic Ford Estates, is our featured speaker. Lunch (\$5) will be served prior to the presentation.

Mature Singles meet this Friday, December 15, 5:30 p.m., at Panda House, 229 North Maple Road. All are welcome.

Youth Ministries is creating an Advent art installation and your help is needed. Every week we will look for photos that represent each of the Advent words (hope, peace, joy and love). This week we are looking for photos that represent hope and peace. Photos may be sent by email to essie@firstpresbyterian.org.

A rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant is this Saturday, December 16, in the Sanctuary. Magi rehearse at 9:00 a.m., shepherds at 9:30 a.m., starbearers at 10:15 a.m., and angels at 11:00 a.m.

“Light Dawns on a Weary World” Christmas Hymn Festival and Reception is next Sunday, December 17, at 3:00 p.m. This is a wonderful event meant for the whole family to attend together. For those who would like childcare for children under age two, make a reservation by contacting Debbie MacVey no later than this Tuesday, December 12.

The Longest Night Service is Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. This service recognizes the encroaching darkness, both literal and figurative, that comes at this time of year. For people grieving, experiencing uncertain times, facing illness or loss of any kind, or melancholy during the holidays, this service speaks to the sadness we feel. Invite neighbors, friends, and loved ones to attend with you. The service includes candles of remembrance, the music of harp, flute, and oboe, moving hymns, and a sermon by Rev. Rogers. Stephen Ministers will provide hot cider and cookies for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Are you spending Christmas Day alone? Would you open your Christmas Day table to include a church member who otherwise would be alone? The Congregational Life Committee hopes to put people together on this most special day to share a meal. Whichever side of the invitation you are on, please contact Rev. Rogers.

On Sunday, December 31, New Year’s Eve, we have one service at 10:00 a.m. Before that service, join us for coffee and treats to celebrate the year’s end in the Lounge, just outside the pulpit door, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Flu season has arrived. If you have yet to get your shot, it’s not too late! Please see your primary health caregiver or pharmacy soon. Flu shots prevent you - and others - from catching this potentially serious virus. Please note that First Pres will not have a flu shot clinic this year.

Special Offerings in December 2017

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 17. Donations support retired church professionals and other church workers in times of need and the development of future racial ethnic leaders of our diverse, national church.

Our First Pres Christmas Eve offering will support SafeHouse Center, an Ann Arbor 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide safety, support, advocacy and resources for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children, and to work relentlessly to change the systems and attitudes that allow this abuse to continue. Your gifts will be used to fund work with youth (Teen Voice), and to provide children's programming designed to break the cycle of domestic violence.

All are welcome to join two new support groups.

"STOP: Sensibly Take Off Pounds," a support group for those who are working on getting healthy and losing weight, will be led by First Pres member Gail Grady who has a background in weight loss programs and a personal story to share. The group will meet on Thursdays, January 18 – February 8, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. All are welcome as we support one another in our quest for good health.

A Divorce Recovery and Support Group, led by First Pres member Annette Fraser with help from Rev. Rogers, will be held on Tuesday nights in March. Come learn, share, and support one another.

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

Reverend Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor/Head of Staff
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries
Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries
Reverend Blair Buckley, Resident Minister
Reverend Eric Koenig-Reinke, Resident Minister
Reverend Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Resident Minister
Reverend Evans McGowan, Campus Ministries Coordinator
Essie Koenig-Reinke, Youth Ministries Coordinator
Sandy Talbott, Wellness Coordinator/Parish Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Lisa Hadrill, Technology Coordinator
Mary Jones, Publications Coordinator/Pastor's Assistant
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant/Children's Education Assistant
Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
Megan Roemer, Finance Assistant



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