



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 17, 2017
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



Advent 3 © 2017 John Stuart

🌿 Gathering 🌿

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Paul Manz
Michael Burkhardt
Charles Callahan

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Sanderford (8:00/9:30)
Rev. Rogers (11:00)

FAITH IN ACTION

Christmas Joy Offering Martha Kershaw (8:00)
Carol Smith (9:30)
Mary Engelhardt (11:00)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

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

Choral Response *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

William P. Rowan

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden 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 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all, as we await your coming among us we must confess that we have not done our part to bring in a peaceable kingdom. We have run over others both consciously and unconsciously, oppressed those in need, and resisted your call to live in harmony with those around us. We have given in to selfish thoughts and been quick to find fault with others. Refocus us on your light that is coming into the world. Open our hearts to welcome you and show your welcome to all through the words we say and the deeds we do.

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

Cheryl Gulbranson (8:00)

Chris Dahl (9:30)

Will McKarns (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 11:1-9

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

ANTHEM (9:30/11:00) *A Little Child Shall Lead Them*

arr. Marilyn Biery

See what once Isaiah told: "Wolf and lamb shall live together."

See an image, vivid, bold – grace enfolds us all forever.

"And a little child shall lead them."

Cows shall graze where lions lie, peace and joy spring forth, unending;

bears shall tend their young nearby, every split on earth is mending.

"And a little child shall lead them."

Sing a prayer that calls for peace and an end to all division.

Sing with love, that discord cease making real the prophets vision:

"And a little child shall lead them."

Jesus was that little one come to know and heal our sorrow.

Both our brother; and God's son, come to bring a new tomorrow.

"And a little child shall lead them."

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (9:30)

Children through grade five are invited forward.

Rev. Koenig-Reinke

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 1:6-9

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

SERMON

Rev. Buckley (8:00)

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

 **Responding** 

* **HYMN 450**

O Day of Peace

JERUSALEM

WELCOME

Rev. Parks-Piatt (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) *The Dream Isaiah Saw* Glenn L. Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play,

wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,

blood will not darken the earth that God made.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.

Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field:

God will transfigure the Violence concealed

deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.

Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent,

all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.

Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

Text by the Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Troeger

* **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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

In keeping with the reverence of worship, photos may be taken after the service.
Bennett and Grace Washabaugh present their son, James Bennett Washabaugh, born February 16, 2017, for baptism.

* **Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water and Baptism

Hymn 498 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*
Please sing Stanzas 1 and 2.

KINGDOM

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**

Joy to the World

Hugo Gehrke

* 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 Peggy Jensen and Sara Vander Voort. **The Church Office** is staffed by Robin Agnew. **Greeters** are Jane Hayes and Virginia Rezmierski at 9:30; and Beth Caldwell and Gail Grady at 11:00. **Ushers** are Bill Austin (head) and Martin Reineman at 8:00; Bill Austin (head), Paul Smith (captain), Angela Yang, Olivier Jolliet, Nicole Jolliet, Dean Gilchrist, Carol Smith, Kay Fuller, Dan Edwards, Omer Bellfi, and Karla Olson-Bellfi at 9:30; and Bill Austin (head), Brady West (captain), Jeanette Middleton, Jim Douglass, and Cindy Lambrides at 11:00. **Sound system operators** are Rol Kibler and Barry Leonard. **The prayer team** is available for those desiring prayer in Hillemonds Chapel, to the right of the chancel in the Sanctuary, after the 9:30 and 11:00 services. **Prayer team members** today include Jeanette Kibler, Anne Kloack, and Evonne Plantina. Following the 8:00 service a minister is available for prayer at the Communion Table. "Prayer is simply talking to God like a friend and should be the easiest thing we do each day." - Joyce Meyer

Candlelighters are Sean and Shanna Hoskins, Meris and Padgett at 8:00 a.m.; Doug Lewis, Robin Randall-Lewis, and William, Tyler, Riley, Lily, and Lexi at 9:30 a.m.; and Jason and Amy Lindauer at 11:00 a.m.

Musical leadership includes Richard Ingram, conductor; Joshua Marzan, piano; Benton DeGroot, baritone; Angie Noble, oboe; Children's Choir; Youth Choir; and Chancel Choir.

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).

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

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. **Cookie bakers** are Betsy DiMaggio, Linda Tubbs, and Kim Byers-Granito. Child-friendly, peanut-free purchased snacks are available for children.

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.

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: Mary and Elizabeth." Presenters are Revs. Sanderford and Buckley.

"Light Dawns on a Weary World" Christmas Hymn Festival and Reception is today at 3:00 p.m. This is a wonderful event meant for the whole family to attend together.

T2A2 Small Group meets at 7:00 p.m. at Chris Wahl's house. 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 about this and other T2A2 opportunities, contact Rev. Parks-Piatt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letting Love Show – Stewardship Update: As of December 11, 465 pledges totaling \$1,527,664 have been received. This represents 90% 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!

Mature Singles meet this Friday, December 22, 5:30 p.m., at Outback Steakhouse, 3173 Oak Valley Drive. All are welcome.

The Longest Night Service is this 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.

There is a dress rehearsal for all participants, including choirs, for the Christmas Pageant this Thursday, December 21, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary.

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.

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.

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, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. We will tackle the hard topics and moments for those who are experiencing the end of a marriage. If you've come through it, are in it, or are about to begin the journey, there is help for you. Come learn, share, and support one another.

All are invited to the Stephens Ministry Continuing Education program on Monday, January 8, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., in Monteith Hall. Estate Planning and Elder Law lawyer Mary Schieve will present "Legal Considerations in Later Life," covering a range of topics relating to aging and elder issues such as long term care issues, the role of the probate court, advance directives, powers of attorney, federal estate tax, what a will does and doesn't do, what a trust is, how to plan in case of incapacity.

The Church building will be closed Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1. The building will close at 4:00 p.m. on December 26 – 29.

Year-End Finance Information: Please support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church with your year-end gifts. The IRS requires that books for 2017 be closed on December 31. Your mailed donation must be postmarked in 2017 for your contribution to be applied to your 2017 financial statement. When paying your financial commitment with a credit/debit card, the commitment is for one calendar year. A new authorization form, available on our website and in the Finance Office, must be filled out annually.

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 Haddrill, 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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