



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Ann Arbor | Michigan

DECEMBER 24, 2017
SERVICE OF COMMUNION

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP
11:00 p.m.



First Family © 2012 John Stuart

Welcome to all! A special welcome to guests and newcomers. Let us know of your presence by signing the red pad which is at the end of each pew. Please introduce yourself to a minister after the service.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Fair

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 9:2, 6

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.**

One: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us:

All: **authority rests upon his shoulders
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

* HYMN 41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

* PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Sanderford

We come to adore you, Christ the Lord, Son of God, Prince of Peace! On this holy night, as we remember and celebrate your birth, we bless you for the glories of your righteousness and wonders of your love, your tender approach to us and your steadfast presence through all our lives and into life everlasting. Hear our words that sing your praise and use our lives to share your light. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

* HYMN 40 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

HYMN 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7 Rev. Buckley

HYMN 37 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* W ZŁOBIE ŁEZY

SECOND READING Luke 2:1-7 Rev. Koenig-Reinke

HYMN 44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

THIRD READING John 1:1-4, 14, 16 Rev. Dr. Fair

HOMILY

* HYMN 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

* A CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel begun in Bethlehem; in the One whose spirit glorified a small village and for whom there was no room at the inn; in the One whose life changed the course of history, over whom the rulers of the earth have no power, and who is not understood by the proud.

I believe in Jesus, the Christ, who welcomes the oppressed, the discouraged, the sick, and the blind; who changes hearts with love and who, with his life, shows that it is better to serve than to be served.

Christ calls us to live in peace, to work for justice among all people and nations, and to love one another. I look to the strength and majesty of Christ, believe in the power of reconciliation and forgiveness, and trust the transforming grace of God.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Parks-Piatt

Offertory

Psallite

Michael Praetorius
Text in Latin and German

Psallite unigenito Christo Dei Filio.
Redemptori Domino puerolo jacenti in praesipio.
Ein kleines Kindelein liegt in dem Krippelein.
Alle liebe engelein dienen dem Kindelein, und singen ihm fein.

*Sing to Christ, the only begotten Son of God.
Redeemer Lord, child, lying in a manger.
A small little child lies in the crib.
All lovely angels serve the little child
and sing sweetly to him.*

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

English carol

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child? Is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?
May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass or sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?
God in His Mother's arms, babe's in the byre
Sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Fair
Rev. Rogers

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.

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

All communion cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are located in the center cup on each wafer tray.

Communion Music

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish carol

arr. David Willcocks

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst

Prayer After Communion

SERVICE OF LIGHT

At the candle lighting, the ministers will move down the center aisle to light the first candle in each pew. Each person in turn will light the candle of the next worshiper. Remember to keep the lighted candle upright when sharing the light. Please remain seated.

Carol Sing

Please remain seated.

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

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing through the plains,
And the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

BENEDICTION

Please extinguish your candle after receiving the benediction. Carry the light of the Christ child in your hearts as Christmas morning breaks, and know the blessing of Emmanuel, God with us.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

*** POSTLUDE**

* Please stand 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 and large print bulletins 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.

We thank the choral and instrumental musicians for their leadership this evening, including Jeffrey Lewandowski, trumpet; Alexander Wilson, trumpet; Carrie Banfield-Taplin, horn; Joseph McInchak, trombone; Martha Farmer, trombone; and Chancel Choir.

Ushers are Bill Austin (head), Olivier Jolliet (captain), Brian, Linda, and James Dabrowski, Cynthia, Rob, Grace, Hadley, Mac, and Vivian VanRenterghem, Keith Molin, and Nicole Jolliet. **Sound system operator** is Rol Kibler.

Our Christmas Eve offering supports 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. **For those who prefer to donate using the GivePlus app or by text, for your Christmas Eve donation**, select the fund “Christmas Eve” on the GivePlus app or simply text “Eve” and the amount of your contribution to 734-441-6148.

Next Sunday, December 31, 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. Anyone interested in singing with the choir next Sunday is invited to come to the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. The choir will not wear robes.

The church building will be closed Monday, December 25, and Monday, January 1. The building will close at 4:00 p.m., 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 no later than December 31 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. We encourage you to use our GivePlus app for your donations.

2018 contribution envelopes for those who requested them are available outside the Finance Office.

Save the date for our Women's Retreat. Our retreat will be March 9 – 10 at Maumee Bay State Park. Sign-ups will begin in January.

A call for book donations - First Pres' Twenties and Thirties of Ann Arbor (T2A2) will study Adam Hamilton's *Half Truths* in January. If you studied the book this fall and are willing to donate your copy for a young adult/graduate student on a budget, please contact Rev. Parks-Piatt and drop the book off at the Church Office.

First Pres hosts the Rotating Shelter January 8 – 22, 2018. Sleeping space will be provided for 25 men referred by the Shelter Association. Evening volunteers and overnight hosts are needed each night. Drivers are needed on weekend mornings and donations of hot food, snacks, gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, and new long underwear are requested. Contact Rev. Rogers, Jeannette Middleton (msjett@aol.com), or John Yodhes (677-4036), or the Church Office to find out how you can help.

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



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