

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
10:30AM

PRELUDE

“Aria”
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Matthew Pascazio

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

David Martin Stevens & Megan Ransom

(Turn to Hymn No. 314; we will sing the Refrain)

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

All: “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

One: A Choir sings in the silence,

All: **“Come, Emmanuel.”**

One: Every valley shall be filled.

All: **Every heart shall be made whole,
for peace is stronger than turmoil,
and love is louder than hate.**

One: As we light our second Advent candle,

All: **we pray for the holy peace of God.**

One: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: **Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

RESPONSE No. 314 *Christ, Be Our Light (Refrain)*

(See Hymnal)

WELCOME

Opportunity for Ministry

Knitting Pocket Prayer Shawls

Barb Grajek

HYMN No. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gate

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 3:1-6
The Gospel of the Lord.. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM "Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God" Handel, arr. Hopson

REFLECTION "Advent is A Season of Work" Andrew Miller

Question of the day: In this Season of Advent what needs to be cleaned, discovered, or rewired?

HYMN No. 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (vs.1,2)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

If you are worshipping virtually today, please make sure that you have some sort of drink and bread or cracker for Communion.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Jaques Berthier

POSTLUDE "Prepare the Way" Ann Slowins

Notes:

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox, Chancel Choir, and Andrew Miller

Children and Worship

All children are welcome and loved at First Presbyterian! All children from newborns through fifth grade begin in the Sanctuary for worship with their families. Pre-K through 5th grade will be dismissed to go to the the Worship Center for Children Worship with a blessing after the Passing of the Peace. Children are also welcome to stay in worship. On Communion Sundays, Children (usually the first Sunday of the month), children remain in worship.

Worship is...

One beautiful image of worship comes from the 19th century Danish philosopher and theologian Soren (Sorin) Kierkegaard. Kierkegaard describes worship a drama or theatre. The worship

leaders (Mary Jo, the choir and the liturgist when we have one, and Andrew) are the conductors, the congregation (those sitting in the pews or in your lawn chairs, or in the comfort of your home) are the actors, and God...God is the audience. God is the recipient of our worship. Worship is not about us. It is all meant to be for and about God. So, at the end of worship please refrain from clapping. The hope and prayer are that God is giving us all a standing ovation or a round of applause for how we have worshiped God today. Instead of clapping at the end of worship consider sharing a phrase of praise such as an "Amen", "Thanks be to God", or "Alleluia".

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Suzanne Hand, Dottie Theunissen, Rick Rodriguez (friend of Tim Fitzgerald), Mike Mitchell & JT Schmitt (Barb Lindley's son-in-laws), Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Peter and Verna Russell, David Neyer, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Colleen Long, Lavona Osborne. Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, First Presbyterian, Fenton, MI, Union of the Protestant Churches of Alsace and Lorraine and Christmas Outreach.

Offering

If you are joining us for worship in-person and would like to give an offering, please place your offering in an offering plate. You can also give your pledge, per capita payment, or offering by mailing it to the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant, 48858. You can also give an offering by going to the church's website, www@fpcmp.org and hit the "Give Now" button or use the QR Code,



Phone calls to the church office are being transferred to Andrew Miller's cellphone.

At this time, the church will not be collecting plastic grocery bags or plastic containers. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Coupons

If you do not use the coupons from your Sunday newspaper, please bring them to the church office and we will share them with Community Compassion Network.

Christmas Eve Service Sign Up

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve Services on December 24 at 6:00 or 7:30PM. Space is limited. You are asked to sign up ahead of time if you plan to attend. Please call the church office, 989-773-9609 or use the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you attend in person you are asked to wear a mask.