

ORDER OF WORSHIP
3rd Sunday of Advent/Christmas Pageant
December 15, 2024
10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Rocking
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Martha Sobaje

WORDS OF GREETING

One: Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon the
holy name of the most high God.

All: **The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

WELCOME

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(Remain seated during the Lighting of the Advent Wreath)

Tim Fitzgerald

Choir:

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Choir and Congregation:

Christ, Be Our Light!
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

The musical score is written on four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

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For Slide to be Projected Overhead:

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Responsive Litany: *Hope for Those Who Are Watching*

One: Advent is a time to awaken the spiritual senses.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

One: Grant us vision to behold your glory.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

One: Quiet us so that we may hear your still, soft voice.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

One: Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

One: For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

All: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting:

One: This morning we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The second candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The third candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

Choir and Congregation Sing:

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your Church gathered today.

Choir: Christ be our light!

Unison Prayer:

God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge that you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(The children and any adult who would like to participate in the Christmas Pageant are dismissed to go downstairs to get your costume.)

*RESPONSE No. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Edwin T. Childs

HYMN SING

(Please choose hymns between Hymn No. 82-156 avoiding hymns that we will sing during "The Story of Jesus' Birth".)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"The Story of Jesus' Birth"

Drexler Demas, narrator

Hymn No. 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1)

Hymn No. 145 "What Child is This" (vs. 1)

Hymn No. 119 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1)

Hymn No. 151 "We Three Kings" (vs. 1)

Hymn No. 115 "Away in a Manger"

PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.

*HYMN No. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Come, Savior, Quickly Come

Don Cason

*POSTLUDE

Last uns alle

Ronald Besemer

*NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS, SO GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD

Notes:

*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Tim Fitzgerald; Drexler Demas; The Chancel Choir; Andrew Miller

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Kolton Hutson, Laura Knutson (niece of Phyllis Heinze), J T Schmitt (Barb Lindley's son-in-law), Nick Baker, Wendy Shugert, Mike McNabb, Scott Campbell (Andrew & Martha Miller's friend), Betty Gempel, Jillian & Flynn Gray, Martha Loubert (sister-in-law of John, Pete, and Sheri Loubert), Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis granddaughter), Olivia Geisthardt (friend of Anna Clare Miller), Suzanne Hand, Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Verna Russell, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Lavona Osborne. Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, Frist Presbyterian, Saginaw, MI, Christian Reformed Church in the Dominican Republic, and the Commission on Aging.

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,



Save the Date:

A Time of Prayer during the Advent/Christmas Season, Wednesday, December 18
7AM- 8AM, 12Noon-1pm, 6:00-7:00PM

Christmas Caroling, Thursday, December 19 5:45pm-7pm, meet at the church.

Christmas Eve Service with Candle Lighting, Tuesday, December 24 7:15PM

A time of Prayer during Advent/Christmas Season

For some the Advent/Christmas Season is full of joy and happiness. For others it is a season of heart ache and brokenness. As we approach the longest night of the year, December 21 Pastor Andrew will be available for prayer in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 18. Whether the Advent/Christmas Season is joyful time or a time that you feel blue Pastor Andrew will be honored to pray with you. The times for prayer on Wednesday, December 18 are from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM, 12noon to 1PM, or 6:00PM-7:00PM. If these times do not work, please call Pastor Andrew (989-954-3297) to schedule a time for prayer.

American Red Cross Blood Drive at First Presbyterian Church

In the Witherspoon Room

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9AM-2PM

Sign up by going to the following link

[Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation | American Red Cross](#) or scanning the QR Code.



The Season of Advent

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival”. The Season of Advent focuses on the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King, in his Second Advent. Advent is far more than a 2,000-year-old historical event. It is a time of celebrating the truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. Therefore, Advent is a season of celebration, anticipation, preparation, and waiting.

The liturgical color for Advent is purple or blue.

Called Congregational Meeting

The Session has Called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 12 at the end of the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Pastor’s Terms of Call, endorse the 2025 Budget, and approve the Corporate Officers of the church for 2025.