

ORDER OF WORSHIP

1st Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

10:30AM

PRELUDE

Von Himmel Hoch, Da Komm Ich Her
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Johann Ludwig Krebs

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Jean Winther

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

One: The world says, "All is lost."

All: God says, "All is loved."

One: The darkness says, "The light is dying."

All: The light says, "The fire is catching."

One: Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

All: Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

One: As we light our first Advent candle,

All: we pray for the holy hope of God.

One: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O prince of Hope.

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

(See Hymnal)

WELCOME

*HYMN No. 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1,6,&7)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. War is one of the first things we learn, and we let it work its way into our lives. Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty. Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard on High
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CHILDREN'S OFFERING; BLESSING

**Congregation: May the Lord go with you as you
worship and learn together.**

Children: May the Lord be with you as you

worship here.
Congregation: Go in peace.
Children: We go in peace. Amen.

During the response to the Passing of the Peace, newborns through 5th grade are invited to come forward to the chancel steps for the blessing. After the blessing, they will be dismissed to the Nursery and to the Children's Worship Center in the lower level for the Children and Worship time. Please pick up your child from the Nursery or Worship Center when they have finished their time of worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Mark Hayes

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“A Season of Wakefulness and Preparation”

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: Imagine the light of the Advent candle flickering as it is overcoming the darkness that surrounds it. How can you be a part of what God is doing to call the world toward the light?

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19*

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

HYMN No. 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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. 756

O God of Every Nation

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*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;**

**from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

*POSTLUDE

Postlude

JCH Rinck

Notes:

*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Jean Winther; the Chancel Choir; Andrew Miller

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

STORYTELLER
GREETER

Lane Demas
Martha Miller

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Heidi Long, Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis' granddaughter), John Loubert, Olivia Geisthardt (friend of Anna Clare Miller), Linda Loubert (Pete Loubert's Step Mother), 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, Flushing Presbyterian, Flushing, MI, Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa, Therapy Dogs International.

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,



Please join us for a time of fellowship after worship in the Witherspoon Room.

Advent and Christmas Opportunities

Volunteer with Christmas Outreach, December 12, 13, or 14 to hand out Hats and Mittens.

[Christmas Outreach volunteers 2022: Christmas Outreach volunteers 2022 \(signupgenius.com\)](http://signupgenius.com)

Help the Care Store collect feminine hygiene items or make a financial donation. Bring a feminine hygiene item to the church from now until the Christmas Eve Service. If you would rather give a financial donation make checks payable to "FPC" and in the memo write "The Care Store".

The Outreach and Social Justice & Peacemaking Team will be collecting food items for the Isabella Child Development Center (ICDC), the preschool housed in the church. There are 32 families who are a part of the ICDC program, and we would like to give each family a bag of food. We would like to give each family a jar of smooth peanut butter (28 ounces), a box of mac and cheese, and can of chicken noodle soup. Please drop off your food donations to the church office by Sunday, December 18.

The Impromptu Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 11 during the 10:30AM worship service. We will also collect the Noisy Offering. Bring your change. All donations will be given to the Nutrition Club of Community Compassion Network to help send extra food to children and youth of each school in Isabella County.

Join us as we go CHRISTMAS CAROLING on Thursday, December 15. Please meet at the church at 5:45PM.

Blue Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 21. The Holiday Season is not always the easiest time of the year for some. The sanctuary will be open all day for prayer and meditation if you need a break for the hustle and bustle of the season.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service begins with special music at 7:15PM on Saturday, December 24. The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected at the service.