

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023
10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Vonn Himmel Hoch, Da Kom Ich Her
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Johann Ludwig Krebs

WORDS OF GREETING

One: We are waiting for the dawn of God's incarnation.

All: Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.

One: We are like clay awaiting the potter.

All: Restore us, God. Let us see your face.

One: Teach us to keep alert as we wait.

All: Restore us, God. Let us see your face.

One: Sustain us this day as we worship you.

All: Amen. Let us worship God!

WELCOME

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jim Bidwell

(Remain seated during the Lighting of the Advent Wreath)

Choir:

Maker of the stars of the night, of the sun by day,
rise in us and bring your light; burn our shadows away.

In the darkness where we dwell, we await the light of God, Emmanuel

Responsive Litany:

One: During Advent we wait for the coming
Savior who is our Wonderful Counselor.

All: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

One: We anticipate the One who hears our prayers.

All: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

One: We anticipate the One who heals our infirmities.

All: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

One: We anticipate the One who renews our faith.

All: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

One: We anticipate the One who ignites our hope.

All: Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

Candle Lighting:

One: Today we light the first candle. The first candle reminds us that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor who brings hope to a hurting world. As our counselor, Jesus brings hope in times of despair, compassion in times of sorrow, and healing in times of brokenness. As we begin the season of Advent, let our hope reside in the One who cares about our needs and sustains our faith.

Choir and Congregation Sing:

God with Us, Emmanuel

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Ev-er-last-ing Fa-ther, Prince of Peace,
Won-der-ful Coun-sel-er, Al-might-y God.
Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el. God with
us, Em-man-u-el.

V.

© 2009 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Unison Prayer:

All: Gracious Lord, we thank you for being our Wonderful Counselor. As we begin our Advent journey, help us to know the abiding hope that comes from knowing you. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN No. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(vs. 1,6,7)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*RESPONSE No. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Amen. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God

Hal Hopson

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:24-37

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

REFLECTION

"Actively Waiting"

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: When in your life have you had to wait?

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27*

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written. Amen.

*HYMN No. 494

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts (vs. 1,3,5)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

If you are worshiping virtually today, please make sure that you have some sort of drink and bread or cracker for Communion. In person communion wafers are made of flour mix (garbanzo bean, tapioca, sorghum, fava beans, potato starch), water, canola oil salt.

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN No. 357

The Days Are Surely Coming

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 543 *God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* (v.4)

**Walking behind to hem my journey,
Going ahead to light my way,
And from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

*POSTLUDE

Postlude

JCH Rinck

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

Notes:

*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Jim Bidwell; The Chancel Choir; Andrew Miller

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Bob Hand, Jan Ackerman (Sheri Loubert's friend), Scott Campbell (Andrew & Martha Miller's friend), Dana Hendershot (Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran), 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, Peter and Verna Russell, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Colleen Long, Lavona Osborne, Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, Linden Presbyterian, Linden, MI, Reformed Presbyterian Church of Africa, and Alma College.

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.

Peanut Butter

The food pantry of Community Compassion Network needs peanut butter. Please bring it to the church and we will make sure it is taken to the Strickler Center and given to the food pantry.

Restore the Glory

Sanctuary Ceiling Repair, Painting, & Light Replacement

The repair, painting and light replacement for our sanctuary ceiling will begin shortly after Easter in 2024. We scheduled the work so that we will have experienced all types of seasonal weather, making sure our new roof is doing its job!

Please help us restore the sanctuary ceiling to its original glory. We need \$20,000 to cover the costs of the ceiling repair, painting, and lighting improvements, a small contingency fund for

unforeseen problems, and a title for Presbyterian Outreach Ministries. As you know, this project is much needed and has been anticipated for a long time.

A more detailed fact sheet is available in the church Narthex. Please direct any questions to Kevin Love, Chair of the House & Grounds Team, a member of Session, or Pastor Andrew.

Save the Dates:

- December 10 Classics @ the Presby
- December 14 Christmas Caroling to the Homebound
- December 17 Children Christmas Pageant
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Service

Christmas Outreach

Christmas Outreach will be held on December 15 and 16 at Morey Courts. Setup will be December 13 and 14. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information. Sign-up sheets are available for helping to set up and helping with distribution on the days. First Presbyterian Church collects hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves. We really need adult sizes the most. Thank you for your support!

Who Is God Calling Us to Be?

There is a group within the life of church that is beginning to pray, to listen, to discern, and actively wait to see who God is calling us to be as a community of faith, as the body of Christ, as the church. Please pray for Barb Grajek, David Stevens, Linnet Stevens, Tim Fitzgerald, Jean Winther, Zach Russell, and Nancy Enders as they head up this task group. If you have questions, please feel free to speak to one of the people on the task group or Pastor Andrew.

Extra Food for ICDC

As the church did last year, we will collect food for the Isbella Child Development Center (ICDC) so that the families of the students will have some extra food during the Winter Break. Although ICDC has no direct relationship with the church they are our neighbors and they have been connected to the church building for over 50-plus years. The church will be collecting food for 19 families. The food items that they have asked us to collect are creamy peanut butter (28oz jars), boxed mac and cheese, and chicken noodle soup. Again, we are collecting for 19 families. Please drop off your food donations to the church office. Please contact Pastor Andrew, 989-954-3297 if you have questions.

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. There will be two worship services this Sunday. The first will be at 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall as we will have a Potluck Breakfast and Worship around tables.

The second service will begin with Special Music at 7:15pm followed by a Service of Lesson and Carols with candle lighting. The Christmas Joy Gift offering will be collected during both services.

Christmas Caroling

Join us on Thursday, December 14, 2023, as we go Christmas Caroling. We will gather at 5:45pm at the church and hop on a bus from 6 to 8pm to sing to church members who have a hard time getting out at this time of year. The Deacons will provide cookies for a snack. with candle lighting.