

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024
10:30 AM

PRELUDE

The King Shall Come
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Charles Callahan

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

(Remain seated during the Lighting of the Advent Wreath)

David Stevens

Choir:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Choir and Congregation:

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

The musical score is written for four voices on a grand staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to day." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end.

Responsive Litany: *Hope for Those Who Wait*

One: Advent is a time for the human heart to wait,
while trusting God's eternal time.

All: How long, O Lord, how long?

One: For those waiting for answered prayer:

All: Grant your steadfast patience.

One: For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

All: Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.

One: For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

All: Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

One: For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

**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 the first candle which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning, we echo the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14)

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 all creation, we declare that you are the Eternal One. We confess to you, O Lord, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN No. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(vs. 1,4,6,7)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you, the Son of Man, in whose name we pray. 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 25:1-10

Amen. **Amen.**

ANTHEM
Hopson

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God

Handel, arr.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:25-36

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

REFLECTION

"Stay Alert"

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: : What is God trying to reveal to us during this Season of Advent?

*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.

*HYMN No. 508

Come to the Table

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. 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

*CHORAL RESPONSE

While We are Waiting, Come

Don Cason

*POSTLUDE

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland

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; David Stevens; The Chancel Choir; Andrew Miller

Gil and Elinor Rau Choral Scholars: Liam Cox; Lauren Gaetes; Oliver Gottbreht; MJ Lashley

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, Rosebush Presbyterian, Rosebush, MI, Christian Reformed Church in Grenada, and the Care Store and Clothing Inc.

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:

Noisy Offering Collected, Sunday, December 8 during worship

Annual Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 15 during Worship Service

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 ups are available soon.

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.