



Christmas Eve

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024
5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 PM Worship

First Presbyterian Church *of Ann Arbor*

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

— Luke 2:1-7 —

Welcome to Worship!

We are glad that you are here to share the joy of this holy night. Our prayer is that you sense the presence of the One whose birth we celebrate, and you leave inspired to shine the light of Christ's love in the world.



Friendship Pad

Please let us know of your presence by signing the Friendship Pad or by using a mobile device to scan the QR code.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in worship; however, if you need childcare, it is available during the 5:00 and 7:00 PM services for children five and younger on Level 1.

Offering

For decades, First's Christmas Eve offering has supported those in need in our community. This year, your generosity will aid Peace Neighborhood Center and the Community Action Network (CAN), empowering local youth to grow, thrive, and overcome challenges.

Join Us on Sundays

We hope you will join us on Sunday, December 29, as we celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas in one service at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

Beginning January 5, 2025

8:30 AM	Worship with Communion	11:30 AM	Worship
9:30 AM	Worship	6:00 PM	Youth Group
10:45 AM	Faith Formation for all ages		

Life Together

Game Night | Sunday, January 5, 4-6 pm

Kickoff the new year with an all-church game night on Sunday, January 5, from 4-6 pm in the Social Hall. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | Tuesday, March 4, 6-7 pm

Come celebrate with us in pancake and bacon decadence before we begin a more reflective time during Lent. Fun and food for all ages!

Learn More: Get involved in small groups, mission activities, music programs, and children and youth events outside of Sunday morning. We would love to share more with you about the possibilities. Please contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor, at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org or 734-662-4466.

To learn more, visit us online at www.fpca2.org.

Service of Lessons & Carols

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

5:00 & 7:00 PM

The Service of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. The readings from the Bible recount the fall of humanity, the promise of a Messiah, and the incarnation. Each lesson is followed by a carol or congregational hymn that reflects on the lesson's message.

Upon entering the sanctuary let us be expectant of God's presence.
Please silence all electronic devices prior to the worship service.

Please join in reading and singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Coventry Carol arr. Richard Price
Angels We Have Heard on High
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
We Three Kings
I Saw Three Ships
First Pres Brass

In The Bleak Midwinter Allen Orton Gibbs
David Hufford, Organ

Selections from *Carolers' Favorites*
First Pres Brass

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
You have increased the joy of the nation as with joy at the harvest—
For the yoke of their burden, and the rod of their oppressor, you have broken.
For to us a child has been born; to us a son has been given.

Authority shall rest upon his shoulders, and he shall be called
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

* CAROL 140

Once in Royal David's City
Jacqueline Vercler, soloist

IRBY

After the solo stanza, the congregation is invited to sing stanzas 2, 3, and 4.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God,
by the gift of your Holy Spirit
show us the Word made flesh –
good news of great joy for all –
so that we may sing with the angels:
glory in the highest and peace on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

ANTHEM

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Chancel Choir

Cardyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news;
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal, He was Alpha and Omega, He.
Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of nations, light of the world, of all the world.

He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms,
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord come to you.
Love him as a child.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–11

* CAROL 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG HERRAN

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26–38

CAROL 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1–7

CAROL 115 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8–20

* CAROL 146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1–12

ANTHEM *I Wonder as I Wander* arr. Steve Pilington
Chancel Choir and Ella Peters, Alto

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor orn'ry people like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Wondering, wondering, When Mary birth'd Jesus,
'twas in a cow's stall with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And promise of the ages it did then recall.

Lullaby, lullaby, if Jesus had wanted any wee thing,
Star in the sky, or a bird on a wing,
All of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

Wondering, wondering, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor orn'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

SEVENTH LESSON John 1 (selected verses)
The Christ Candle is lit, and a moment of silence is kept.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.
And from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

* CAROL 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Festival First Nowell* arr. Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir and First Pres Brass

The first Nowell the angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep;
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and say a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night,
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with His blood our life hath bought;
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The ministers light the first candle in each pew. Each person will light the candle of the next worshiper. Please keep the lighted candle upright when sharing the light.

CAROL SING

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

* BENEDICTION

*Please extinguish your candle after the benediction and before leaving your
pew. Carry the light of the Christ child in your hearts and know the blessing
of Emmanuel, God with us.*

* CAROL 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Keith Chapman



WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. David Prentice-Hyers, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Mark Mares, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Nathaniel Fryer, *Resident Minister*
Rev. Tommy Langejans, *Resident Minister*

MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts
David Hufford, Organist
First Pres Brass
Horn: Carrie Banfield-Taplin
Trumpet: David Koch, Gordan Ward
Trombone: Kenneth Kroesche
Tuba: David Zerkel
Timpani: Cary Kocher
Orchestra Coordinator: Gregg Emerson Powell

USHERS

5:00 PM

Marolin Bellefleur
Nick Boucher
Linda Cameron
Sue Cares
Grace Krapohl
Greta Krapohl
Chloe Majorprice
Holly Majorprice
Joe Schmidt
Tara Shantz
Sandy Talbott
Angela Yang

7:00 PM

Carol Carter
Chloe Majorprice
Holly Majorprice
Joe Schmidt

Candlelight Service

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Selections from *Carolers' Favorites*
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* CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
You have increased the joy of the nation as with joy at the harvest—
For the yoke of their burden, and the rod of their oppressor, you have broken.
For to us a child has been born; to us a son has been given.

Authority shall rest upon his shoulders, and he shall be called
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
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His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

* CAROL 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God—in the darkest time of the year
we gather to hear again an ancient story—
to listen for tidings of comfort and joy in the night air,
to make our way through the cold to a place of birth.**

**In a time of anxiety and anguish,
we gather in this beloved Light to be healed of fear and anger,
to practice believing your promise of peace and goodwill on
earth.**

**In the quiet splendor of this night,
whisper to us between all the familiar words and cadences.**

**And when we have received these treasures of song and story,
send us home by a different way—
to plant hope even in the chill earth,
to kindle light even in the darkest time,
to create peace even where we can scarcely imagine it—
for we pray in the name of the One
whose birth brings us back to life. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5

ANTHEM

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Chancel Choir

Cardyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news;
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
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From time eternal, He was Alpha and Omega, He.
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Hope of nations, light of the world, of all the world.

He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms,
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord come to you.
Love him as a child.

SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1–20

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander
Chancel Choir and Ella Peters, Alto

arr. Steve Pilington

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Lullaby, lullaby, if Jesus had wanted any wee thing,
Star in the sky, or a bird on a wing,
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FOURTH READING

John 1 (selected verses)

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MEDITATION

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

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Chancel Choir and First Pres Brass

Dan Forrest

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was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
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They looked up and say a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night,

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with His blood our life hath bought;
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

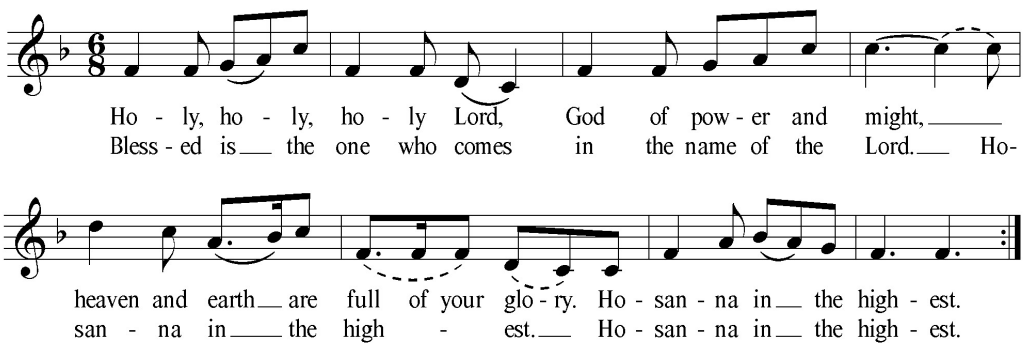
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to receive Communion. All cups contain grape juice. Most stations have wafers that are gluten free but contain soy and sesame. If you need an option that contains gluten but no other allergens, come to the center station.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Lullaby on O SANCTISSIMA* Thomas M. Kuras

Improvisation on STILL, STILL, STILL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The ministers light the first candle in each pew. Each person will light the candle of the next worshiper. Please keep the lighted candle upright when sharing the light.

CAROL SING

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of
righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
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* BENEDICTION

David Prentice-Hyers

*Please extinguish your candle after the benediction and before leaving your
pew. Carry the light of the Christ child in your hearts and know the blessing
of Emmanuel, God with us.*

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Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Keith Chapman



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David VanderMeer, *Minister of Music and Fine Arts*

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Horn: Carrie Banfield-Taplin

Trumpet: David Koch, Gordan Ward

Trombone: Kenneth Kroesche

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