

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



God's Shining Face, George Millereau, 16th Century France, Vanderbilt University Divinity Library

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933

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Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec. 10, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to maintain our worship environment, please turn off your cell phones. Thank you.

PRELUDE "Christmas Bell Medley" arr Larry Shackley Brass Quintet
Trumpets - Chris Pike, Katie Pike
French Horn - Gwen Botting
Trombones - Mike Emerson, John
Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elliot Ryser

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

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

We are like clay awaiting the potter.

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

Teach us to keep alert as we wait.

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

Sustain us this day as we worship you.

Amen. Let us worship God!

++HYMN #82 [GTG] Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin adventus = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps to give us voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH JOY

Jenks Family

We sing the response:

84[GTG] *Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,*

O Christ, Redeemer of us all, We pray you hear us when we call.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Elliot Ryser

++Indicates to stand in body or spirit

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Restore us, O God of hosts.
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating:
from fear that blocks the way of love,
from worry that blocks the way of joy,
from isolation that blocks the way of relationship,
from structural injustices that keep the world bound.
Forgive us, O God of hosts,
until the stars fall from heaven
and we live as people transformed.**

Assurance of Pardon

Elliot Ryser

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

++Response to Forgiveness #87 [GTG]

***"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."***

++PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Elliot Ryser

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

#757 [GTG] (verse one)

Dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ms. Megan

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Constitutional Questions

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe, and do you and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

(For ruling elder) Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(For deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

++Questions to the Congregation

Clerk of Session Bill Collins

Do we, the members of the church, accept these people as ruling elders or deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

To be installed as elders: Ceci Anderson, Carol Wallace, Elliot Ryser, Pam Blair

To be installed as deacon: Barb Amundsen, Bethanne Jenks, Chrisann Lowe, Mike Bryan, Sue Carey, Jean Jones, Linda Snyder, Judy Whitman

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elliot Ryser

Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Elliot Ryser

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth ²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

CHORAL SERMON

“Christmas Cantata” by Daniel Pinkham

I. *Quem vidistis, pastores?**Dicite!**Annotate nobis in terris quis apparuit.**Natum vidimus, nataum.**Et chorus angelorum, collaudantes Dominum.**Alleluia.*II. *O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum,**Ut Animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praespio.**Beata virgo cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.*III. *Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus venal voluntatis.**Jubilare Deo omnis terra, servite Dominum in laetitia.**Introite in conspectu ejus, in exultatione.**Scitote quondam Dominus ipse est Deus; Ipse fecit nos, et non ipsi nos.**Alleluia!*

Translation

I. Whom do you see? Shepherds, tell us!

Proclaim to us: who has appeared on the earth?

We saw the new born child and choirs of angels praising the Lord

II. O great mystery and wondrous sacrament that animals should see the new born Lord Lying in their manger.

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those of good will.

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness,

And come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;

It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves.

Alleluia!

++Hymn #106 [GTG]

Prepare the Way, O Zion

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folk tune that spread to Scandinavia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

George Bennett

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.

(Prayers continue)

Lord's Prayer (**unison**)

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.

Amen #571[GTG]

Amen, Amen, Amen

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

Offering

++ Doxology (Tune of #145 [GTG] Greensleeves)

***We bring our gifts to celebrate your gift of incarnation:
The Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, the Lord of all creation.
Praise, praise to you, O God, and to your Son, forever be;
Praise Holy Spirit, praise the blessed Trinity.***

Prayer of Dedication

++HYMN #88 [GTG] O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1, 4, 6, 7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

BENEDICTION

BLEST BE THE TIE 306[GTG]

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

POSTLUDE

Sergei Kvitko

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CHURCH SERVICES. Licensed music streamed with permission under ONE
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INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

Participants in this morning's service:

Liturgist	Elliot Ryser
Organist/Pianist	Sergei Kvitko
Director of Music	Megan Higl
Bells of First Director	Darin Showalter
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Jenkins

Concerns of the congregation:

In care facilities: Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)
Dianne Rector (Rosewood Adult Foster Care- DeWitt)

HEARING ASSISTANCE (The devices have been recently checked and they DO work!) **LARGE PRINT AND BRAILLE BULLETINS** (If you would like a Braille bulletin, please let the church office know ahead of time.) We also have **CUSHIONS** available if you find the pews uncomfortable! Please see one of the ushers if any of these aids to worship will enhance your participation in the service.

FLOWER CHART There are many dates available on the chart to celebrate special days in our church family. The new price is \$50. Simply sign up on the chart (in the office hall), indicate the occasion that you would like celebrated or honored (birthday, anniversary or memorial), write a check to the church and give it to Betsy, and we will order for you. If you would like to purchase or provide a silk arrangement for use when we don't have a fresh arrangement scheduled, please see Judy Whitman. Thank you! - Worship Committee.

"YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR MISSION! PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO GIVE SECURELY ONLINE." Take a picture with your phone and it will take you to the website to make a donation.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Dec. 10

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
11:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship - Chapel

Monday, Dec. 11

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:00 p.m. – 9 GIL class
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
6:30 p.m. Bells of First rehearsal – Choir room

Tuesday, Dec. 12

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
4:00 p.m. Adult Forum Committee – library/zoom
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee
6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band Rehearsal – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen rehearsal – Chapel

Wednesday, Dec. 13

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
12:00 p.m. Baby Boomers/Beyond luncheon – parlor
5:00 p.m. Open Spot Theatre – Litten Hall
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
6:00 p.m. Mid-Michigan Photo Club – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Deacons – Zoom
7:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study – Zoom

Thursday, Dec. 14

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
12:00 a.m.-2 p.m. NWI Food Distribution – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries– Library

Friday, Dec. 15

5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, Dec. 16

Sunday, Dec. 17

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Adult Forum – Litten Hall
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship - Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Children's Faith Formation after service at the same time as Adult Forum. In December, there will be Children's Faith Formation on Dec. 3 and Dec. 10.

FPC is excited to bring back its annual Children/Youth Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17! Come to worship that day and experience the birth of Christ through the telling of our younger members.

Are you excited?! The Paul Keller Big Band Ensemble will be coming to FPC on Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 pm to present "Christmas For Jazz Lovers". This is a FANTASTIC time spent with some of your favorite holiday tunes! Big Band, Soloist, Christmas Sweaters. Free Will Donations accepted to help support this wonderful FPC tradition. This is the PKO's 4th time coming to Lansing - we are the "western" venue that they venture out to from Detroit/Ann Arbor area. Family friendly, clapping, laughing, smiling and singing along is encouraged!

"All Creation Sings" (Winter Concert) Tuesday, December 13 7:00 p.m. DeWitt High School Auditorium (Megan Hagle, director; singers include FPC members/choir Chrisann and Fred Lowe, Bob Hagle, Katie Sundeen; violinist Lydia Bradford)

Handbell choir rehearsals are Mondays, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome! Contact Darin Showalter for more information.

Adult Bible Study: has been moved from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays by ZOOM. All are welcome as we explore two readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. Here is a link to the lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> Here is the Zoom link to connect: <https://bit.ly/3Q2iBKZ> Meeting ID: 832 1565 8039, Passcode: 661418
Pastor Bob Hagle / bob.hagle@gmail.com / 517-512-8018

ACT Uganda - Wouldn't it be nice to find that perfect, unique gift for a loved one, while giving someone hope at the same time? Well – you can! Just visit actuganda.org and take a "trip" to our ACT Uganda store for your Christmas shopping. The proceeds from your purchase will go back into the programs of ACT Uganda. It's a win/win! We have beautiful baskets, jewelry and sewn items made by the women of Muko Sub-County who are part of our Uniquely Uganda Handcrafts program. We also have a group of dedicated volunteers in Michigan who make lovely sewn items from the fabrics our Travel Teams bring back from Uganda. **Place your orders no later than tomorrow/December 11 to ensure that they arrive before Christmas.** And if you're not sure what to purchase, there is always the ACT Uganda Digital Gift Card, also available in our online shop, which is available to purchase and receive immediately. We hope you'll consider our shop as you work through your gift list. We thank your congregation for being a long-time supporter of ACT Uganda!

ADULT FORUM

(11:30-12:30 in Litten Hall downstairs or on Zoom).

(Childcare can be available through this time.)

Children's Faith Formation also happening Dec. 10.

DECEMBER 10

Salim Makhoul

A Faith Journey of a Christian Lebanese

Elder and longtime member Salim Makhoul will talk about Lebanon and his life journey there and here in the US.

DECEMBER 17

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

The Scottish Highlands! the Isle of Skye!

Come see fabulous castles, fairy pools, waterfalls, and highland cattle!

Rev. Jenkins will talk about and show pictures from his Sabbatical trip to Scotland.

DECEMBER 24

(no Adult Forum today)

**Join the congregation this evening
in our beautiful candlelight service.**

7:00 PM