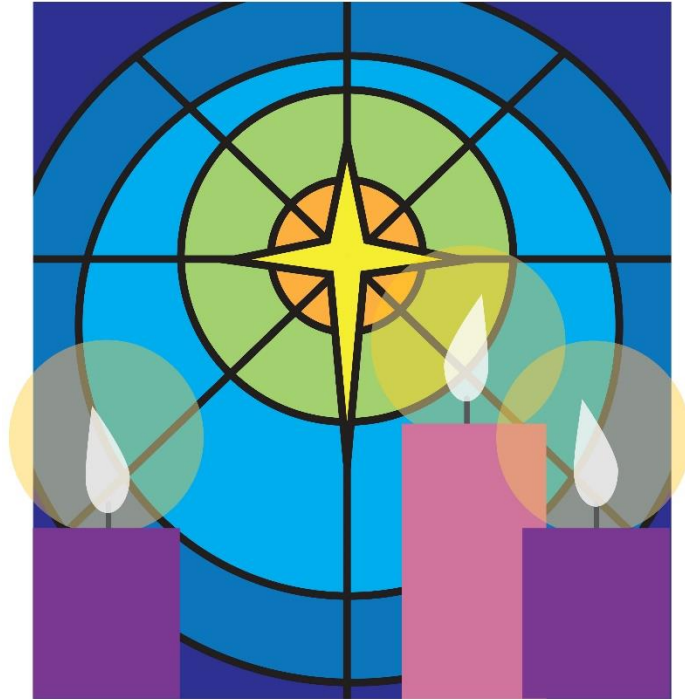


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF LANSING



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

510 W. Ottawa Street • Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 482-0668 / www.lansingfirstpres.com
Facebook – Lansing First Presbyterian
Summer Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR OUR LORD'S DAY

DEC. 15, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

FIRST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“The First Noel”

RACHEL MACKOUL

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEXI GREEN

God, you are our salvation and trust.

Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

You redeem your people; you restore our fortunes.

Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

You have become for us our strength and salvation.

Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

Let us sing to the Lord,

who has done glorious things.

Let us offer joy, thanks, and praise this day.

Hallelujah!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - Week Three - Joy

Reader 1: As we wait for the baby Jesus we are reminded in Psalm 33 to be joyful.

Reader 2: “Sing a new song to the Lord! Play well, and shout with joy! For everything God does is good. God’s kind love fills the world. God’s word made the heavens, and God’s breath made the stars. God gathers the seas up in heaps and stores the deep in jars. Let everyone who lives on earth stand in awe of God, for God spoke, and there it was: at God’s command, it stood.”

**ALL: God of Joy, help us remember to share joy as we wait for Jesus.
Amen.**

Reader 1: We light the candles of Hope and Peace, and today the candle of Joy to show us the way.

ALL: And as a reminder that God is with us today.

LIGHT TWO PURPLE CANDLES, ONE PINK

++ HYMN #107[GTG] Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn
After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn, Marty Haugen, was moved to create a contemporary, accessible le carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

LEXI GREEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that,
in the midst of your glorious creation,
we have neglected our role in its care.
We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely,
those on the margins
and those who are oppressed.
We focus on our own desires,
while forgetting the needs of our neighbors.
We have not prepared a way for the Lord,
through either our words or our deeds,
neither through our actions nor our thoughts.
Grant us your mercy in forgiveness;
and lead us to act with compassion and justice,
guided by your glorious light.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEXI GREEN

Surely God is our salvation!
We will trust in the Lord's goodness
and will not be afraid.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

++ RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #447 [GTG] WE ARE FORGIVEN

447

We Are Forgiven

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
 10.8.10.8

++ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

LEXI GREEN

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

And also with you.

#752 [GTG] Dona nobis pacem

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MS. MEGAN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LEXI GREEN

God of hope, who never lets us go,
 draw near to us in these ancient words.
 By your Holy Spirit may we be filled,
 lifted up, and leveled as you prepare in our hearts
 the path of your coming. **Amen.**

FIRST READING ISAIAH 12: 2-6

LEXI GREEN

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS – CHILDREN’S PAGEANT (SEE INSERT)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GWEN BOTTING

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)

OUR 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: #600 [GTG]

600

Amen

A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: African American; arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988

AMEN

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", Arr. Jason W Krug

BELLS OF FIRST

++Doxology #608 [GTG]

Praise God, from Whom 608

All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all
 peo-ple here be-low; praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-
 more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore.

Prayer of Dedication

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

HYMN #108 [GTG] Of the Father's Love Begotten (verses 1 - 3)

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody form the late Middle Ages.

BENEDICTION

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

Blest Be the Tie That Binds #306 [GTG]

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

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful, Arr. Jason W Krug

BELLS OF FIRST

*PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE USE CAMERAS TO BROADCAST VIDEO OF OUR CHURCH SERVICES. LICENSED MUSIC STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE, LICENSE #A-731144. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED."

INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:

LEXI GREEN

ORGANIST:

SERGEI KUITKO

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

MEGAN HIGLE

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH LIFE / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

PRINCE SOLACE

PASTOR:

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

ADVENT READERS:

SCHOR AND CAREY FAMILIES

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNS are available.

FLOWER CHART There are many dates available on the chart to celebrate special days in our church family. The 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, 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*

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 15

10:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Sunday service Children's Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary
Advent Workshop

11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m. GIL classes
10:00 a.m. Church staff meeting – Library
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga room

Tuesday, December 17

9:00 a.m. -2 GIL Classes
12:30 p.m. Lansing Area Clergy – Library
2:00 p.m. Pantry Board - Library
6:00 p.m. Mid-MI Photo Club officers – Library
6:30 p.m. Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Capital City Chordsmen rehearsal – Chapel

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL Class
11:00 a.m. Funeral for Verd Rumfield – Sanctuary
12:00 P.M. Bible study – Library
4:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga room
7:00 p.m. Session – GIL room

Thursday, December 19

9:00 a.m.-2 GIL classes
6:00 p.m. Capitol Area Quilt Guild – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal – Choir room
7:00 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries – Library

Friday, December 20

10:00 a.m. GIL classes
11:00 a.m. LINK Christmas party – Litten Hall
5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room
7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols with BEYOND - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22

10:00 a.m. Worship service - Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Blue Christmas – Parlor
12:30 p.m. Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – Chapel
5:30 p.m. Caroling at the Capitol

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Blue Christmas Prayer Service Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m.

In light of the challenges our world faces, and for those in our congregation who are facing difficulties and loss, we will be holding a **Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, Dec 22 at 11:30 AM in the Parlor.** We hope this comfortable setting will allow worshippers to engage and reflect on their feelings of fear, frustration, sadness, emptiness, and even anger for the coming year, especially at this time of year that is supposed to be happy and joyful. We hope the service will encourage

participants to seek God's love that knows our hearts. Music will be soft, readings will be meaningful, and participants can choose to share their feelings during this time of togetherness. All are welcome.

Following the pageant today, bring your creativity and holiday spirit to our

Advent Workshop:

 **Cookie Decorating**

 **Angel Ornament Making**

Come enjoy a fun, festive time with your church family, filled with laughter, joy, and holiday cheer.

Celebrate the Season with *Beyond Christmas* – A Holiday Concert!


Experience the magic of the season through a unique and uplifting performance blending traditional holiday favorites with fresh, inventive choral repertoire. This concert will surprise and inspire you, wrapping you in the true spirit of Christmas.

Featuring:

- Traditional, beloved carols alongside lesser-known gems
- Special performances by the **Lansing Children's Choir** and **Lansing First Presbyterian Chancel Choir**

 **Date:** Friday, December 20, 2024

 **Time:** 7:30 PM

 **Location:** First Presbyterian Church, Lansing, MI

Details:

- **Price:** "Pay what you can" – Suggested donation of \$10 per ticket
- **Limited Seating** – Advance ticket ordering is highly recommended!
(Contact Megan Higle for more information or find the QR code on the dark green posters in the building)

NAME TAGS: Would you like a name tag? Or does your old one need to be replaced? Please email Pam Blair blairkids3@yahoo.com or call/text 517-281-9099. The deadline to get names for the printer is December 22, 2024.

ADULT FORUM

(11:15-12:15 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom).
(Childcare is available through this time.)

No Adult Forum December 15, 22, 29, January 5

Adult Education Committee wishes everyone a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year! Adult Forum resumes January 12, 2025