

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF LANSING



Annunciation of Christ's Birth to Shepherds by Angels, J.Le Breton, 1933

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933  
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Summer Church Office Hours (M-Th) 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR OUR LORD'S DAY  
DEC. 8, 2024 @ 10:00 AM  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Is Your Heart Prepared For A King?" by Robert Lau CHANCEL CHOIR  
*In the quiet of the night, or in mornings early light, is your heart prepared for a King?  
Will you hear an angel sing? Will your own hosannas ring? Is your heart prepared for a King?  
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings hope to a wearied earth.  
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings peace, who brings peace by His birth.  
Can you see the shining star? Does it call you from afar? Is your heart prepared for a King?  
Is the babe of whom we sing born to be our God and King? Is your heart prepared for a King?*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

GEOFF BLAIR

*A voice cries out; a prophet speaks:*

***In the wilderness, prepare the way.***

*The valleys are filled; the mountains are made low.*

***In the wilderness, prepare the way.***

*The winding roads are made level,  
the rough ways made smooth.*

***In the wilderness, prepare the way.***

*God's salvation has come  
and even now it is on its way.*

***Blessed is the Lord God,  
who has come to save us! Hallelujah!***

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** - Week Two -Peace

Reader 1: As we wait for Jesus we are reminded in Psalm 147 that peace comes from God to whom we give thanks.

Reader 2: "Sing thanks to the Lord, who covers heaven with clouds, makes rain for the earth and grass on the mountains! God feeds young  
++indicates to stand in body or spirit.

ravens when they cry, and all the other beasts, [God] blesses your children, gives you peace and the best things to eat.”

**ALL: God of Peace, may we be thankful and share your peace. Amen.**

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

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

*LIGHT TWO PURPLE CANDLES*

**++ HYMN #84[GTG]** Creator of the Stars of Night

*The Latin original of this text for Advent dates from at least the 9th century, and the English version was created a millennium later as part of the 19th-century recovery of early Christian hymns. It is provided here with its traditional plainchant setting.*

## **SERVICE OF RENEWAL**

CALL TO CONFESSION

GEOFF BLAIR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Cleansing God,  
we hear the call to repentance,  
but we struggle to respond.  
A voice tells us to turn around,  
but we prefer our own ways.  
You seek to purify us in love,  
but we constantly elude your searching hand.  
Our sin leads us in other directions,  
away from you, away from life.  
Look with mercy upon us.  
Clear a place within us  
so that something new might be born,  
something that might return us  
to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GEOFF BLAIR

By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness  
 and in the shadow of death,  
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
 This is good news!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

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

447 We Are Forgiven

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "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." The guitar chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

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**

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

**And also with you.**

**#752 [GTG] *Dona nobis pacem***

GEOFF BLAIR

*Dona nobis pacem* 752

*Sim shalom*

*Rabbu habna salamann tamman*

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (A)  
 F C F C

Latin Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.  
 Hebrew Sim sha - lom, sim sha - lom, sim sha - lom.  
 Arabic Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann tam - man.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

(G) (D) (A) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F C F

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.  
 Sim sha - lom a - lei - nu.  
 Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

MS. MEGAN

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

CHRISTOPHER VENETIS

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

GEOFF BLAIR

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.**

**CHORAL ANTHEMS**

CHANCEL CHOIR

Reading: Numbers 24:17  
“There Shall A Star Come Out of Jacob” by Felix Mendelssohn

Reading: Revelation 5:13  
“The Friendly Beasts” by Gwyneth Walker with Eric Chatfield, clarinet

Reading: Song of Solomon 2:3 and Luke 13:18-19

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” tune by Elizabeth Posten, setting by Carl Schalk

Reading: Luke 2: 7, 12

“Away in a Manger” arr Ola Gjeilo with Maco Jeleniewski, soprano

Reading: Isaiah 7:14; 9:16; Micah 5:2

**++ HYMN #90 [GTG]** Wait for the Lord

*The refrain for this psalm, drawn from Psalm 27:14, comes from the ecumenical Community of Taizé in France and is most effective when sung in parts. With repeated singing, it can also be used by itself as a contemplative prayer and is especially appropriate in Advent.*

**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)

**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

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are 'A - men, a - men.' The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef, the same key signature and time signature. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and time signature.

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

AMEN

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** "The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow" by Zebulon Highben  
 CHANCEL CHOIR

*The Lord shall come and not be slow; his light is soon appearing. Prepare, you sinners, here below. Who are these tidings hearing:*

*Arise, O sleepers, trim your lamps! Their flames so swiftly burning reveal the path to hope and peace, the dawn for which you're yearning.*

*Come forth, you weary, meek, and poor! Forget your strife and labor.*

*Messiah comes to those who toil, bestowing God's own favor.*

*Your king eternal, Lord on high, in humble form and lowly, transforms a simple oxen stall into a throne most holy.*

*For Christ shall come and not be slow; his light is now appearing.*

*Rejoice, you saints on earth below! His reign of love is nearing.*

++Doxology #608 [GTG]

Praise God, from Whom 608  
All Blessings Flow

Musical score for the hymn "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is accompanied by chords: G, C, Am7, Dsus, D, G, D, Am7, Dsus, D, Am7, D, G, Am7, G, Am7, D, G. The lyrics are: "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 #105 [GTG]** People Look East

*This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.*

**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**

SERGEI KVITKO

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**INFORMATION FOR THE DAY**

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:



LITURGIST:	GEOFF BLAIR
PRELUDE/POSTLUDE:	SERGEI KVITKO
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	MEGAN HIGLE
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH LIFE / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:	PRINCE SOLACE
PASTOR:	REV. STANLEY JENKINS
ADVENT READERS: KATIE SUNDEEN, LYDIA BRADFORD, TROY FORBUSH, COLIN DEWITT	

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNS** are available.

**FLOWERS TODAY ARE IN HONOR OF THE 54<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BEVERLY AND CHARLIE PHILLIPS**

**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 8

10:00 a.m.	Choral Christmas Sunday service – Sanctuary
11:30 a.m.	Adult Forum – Litten Hall
11:30 a.m.	Children’s Faith Formation
12:30 p.m.	Victory in Jesus Ministries – Sanctuary
2:00 p.m.	Lansing Symphony Orchestra – Chapel

### Monday, December 9

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 10**

9:00 a.m. -2	GIL Classes
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Drive Michigan Forward Coalition – Litten Hall
5:30 p.m.	Worship Committee meeting
6:30 p.m.	Glen Erin Pipe Band – Litten Hall
7:00 p.m.	Capital City Chordsmen rehearsal – Chapel

**Wednesday, December 11**

8:00 a.m.	NWI kitchen prep
9:00 a.m.-7 p.m.	tentative Nurses Union – Litten Hall
9:00 a.m.-2	GIL Class
12:00 P.M.	Bible study – Library
4:00 p.m.	NWI kitchen prep
4:30 p.m.	Lansing Children's Choir
5:30 p.m.	Yoga – Yoga room

**Thursday, December 12**

9:00 a.m.	Food Distribution NWI – Litten Hall
9:00 a.m.-2	GIL classes
7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal – Choir room
7:00 p.m.	Victory in Jesus Ministries – Library

**Friday, December 13**

10:00 a.m.	GIL classes
5:30 p.m.	Yoga – Yoga Room

**Saturday, December 14****Sunday, December 15**

10:00 a.m.	Sunday service Children's Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary
11:30 a.m.	Adult Forum – Litten Hall
11:30 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation
12:30 p.m.	Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – Chapel

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Holiday Baskets:** The Deacons gave 100 baskets to needy families for Thanksgiving and will give 100 for Christmas. Recipients sign up when they visit the food pantry. Each basket costs \$50. Please help us with your contributions. Checks can be written to the church with Holiday Baskets on the memo line. Thank you!

### Colors of the Church Calendar Year

The colors we use in our Sanctuary mark different seasons in church life. We celebrated Christ the King Sunday with white and all of our colors to celebrate Jesus' victory over all evil in the world. Our colors – purple or blue for Advent, White for High Holy Days, Green for Common or Growing season, Purple for Lent, and Red for Pentecost are all represented today in our Worship space.

The first Sunday in Advent, the beginning of the church year, is celebrated with purple or blue (for Mary), paraments. High Holy Days, like Christmas through Epiphany, the Easter season (48 days), All Saints Day and Christ the King are traditionally celebrated with white paraments. Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday is purple for the purple robe that Pilate insisted Jesus wear on his way to the cross. We use black on Good Friday for Jesus's death and then we

take all color out of the Sanctuary to remember the utter desolation of Jesus's sacrifice. Pentecost is our only red day, for the fire of the Holy Spirit. The rest of the church year is celebrated with green – known as Common Time, but we prefer to think of it as Growing Time!.

### **What's New in our Library?**

Are you just a teeny bit stressed with politics and the Christmas holiday coming up? Relax and refresh with a good book and some quiet time. Look for some Christmas selections that are fun and uplifting and also some devotional books.

There are many Christmas selections that you can choose and most are displayed on the fireplace mantel in the library. Garrison Keillor, Jan Karon, and Paul Evans are some authors you may recognize.

On the shelf labeled "Devotions" you might like an easy-to-read poetry book entitled "Devotions" by Mary Oliver or daily devotions by Sarah Young entitled "Jesus Calling".

Also, we are happy to announce that many more books will be arriving this winter to support the work of the "Green Team" on topics regarding earth care. The shelf is labeled to the left of the fireplace.

Wishing you a month of God's peace and love this December. The Library Committee

PS. As always, the Little Free Library is being filled twice a week. Now we are putting in many Christmas-themed books for both children and adults.

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

### **Join Us for a Joyous Celebration of "The First Christmas"!**

🎄 Sunday, December 15

🕒 10:30 AM - Children's Christmas Pageant: "The First Christmas"

✨ Celebrate the anticipation of Christ's birth with the young and young-at-heart members of our church family. It's sure to be a heartwarming experience for all!

Following the pageant, 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. We can't wait to see you there!

## **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)

Come celebrate with family and friends in a performance that promises to fill your heart with holiday cheer!

## **ADULT FORUM**

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

## **December 8**

### **Supporting the unsheltered (homeless)**

**Guest Speaker: Julia Miller** – Cofounder of **Punks with Lunch** and creator of the State of Michigan sponsored harm reduction hub offering a variety of services including: Narcan and Narcan Training, Needle Exchange, Safer Use Kits, resources for Recovery Services. She will discuss the background of the “Punks with Lunch of Greater Lansing” including what they do, how others have been able to help and support, the how’s and why we conduct /combine harm reduction, food distribution, provide support or resource navigation, Narcan training.