

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



St. John the Baptist, Jack Malczewski, 1854-1929, Vanderbilt University Collection

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933

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Facebook3 - Lansing First Presbyterian

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. 3, 2023 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE "Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly" arr Mizzy McCaskill & Dona Gilliam
Annie Rowbal, flute

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Lydia Bradford, Colin Dewitt, Katie Sundeen, Tori Tyler
HOPE (The Prophecy Candle)

We sing the opening:

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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Geoff Blair

Wilderness living calls us to seek God
in the voice that cries out,
**"Valleys will be lifted up
and mountains will be made low,"**
to seek God
in the sound of the one who speaks of peace,
"The day of the Lord is coming,"
to seek God in the loud noise
that foretells what will be made new.
**In the wilderness,
let us listen only for God's voice. Let us worship God!**

++HYMN #348 [GTG] Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending
*Despite unclear musical origins, the result here is a characteristic early Methodist hymn tune,
notable for its breadth and range. It effectively sets a text of similarly mixed sources, one that
Charles Wesley regarded related to "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer.*

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Geoff Blair

++Indicates to stand in body or spirit
Unison Prayer of Confession

**“Prepare the way of the Lord,” your prophet says to us.
Forgive us when we have failed to prepare your way.
Forgive us when we have stood in your way, instead:
when we let the challenging words of your prophets roll off of lives,
rather than let them spark change;
when we walk around a neighbor in need,
rather than encounter a chance for compassion.
Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us assurance
that the glory of your coming does not depend
upon the righteousness of your followers.
Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to try again.**

Assurance of Pardon

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

Geoff Blair

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Geoff Blair

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christopher Venetis

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Geoff Blair

- ¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah
⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
¹²The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Star of Heaven, Child of God" arr Brad Nix
*Star of heaven, Child of God; Come to us and walk this sod.
Shine Your holy light, warm us in the night.
Come to us, O Child of God.
Stem of Jesse, holy One, called to be God's chosen Son.
Shower us with grace, send us Your embrace.
Come to us, O Child of God.*

*Come, O come, Emmanuel. Fill all the world with Your peace.
May the light of Your perfect love reflect in me.*

*God with us, Emmanuel, come into our hearts to dwell.
Give us peace and rest, heal our brokenness.
Come to us, O Child of God.*

Of the Father's love begotten, come to us, O Child of God.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

++Hymn #350 [GTG]

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

This African American spiritual has a biblical basis in the parable of the ten maidens (Matthew 25:1-13), but the text actually sung could vary greatly. Such variation can be seen here in the annexing of an often freestanding spiritual based on Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10-17).

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (all bread served is gluten free)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

... who forever sing to the glory of your name

Sanctus (**Sung in unison**) #572[GTG] *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

... Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

The Mystery of Faith (**unison**)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: Invocation of Holy Spirit

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.

Pastor: Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Responsive Prayer after the Supper

You have given yourself to us, Lord;

Now we give ourselves for others.

Your love has made us a new people;

As a people of love we will serve you with joy.

Your glory has filled our hearts;

Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

Offering

Choral Anthem "Every Valley" by John Ness Beck

*Ev'ry valley shall be excelled, and ev'ry mountain made low;
And the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, reveled,
And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
Amen.*

++ 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 #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 (BESANCON). The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implication of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

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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MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

Participants in this morning's service:

Liturgist	Geoff Blair
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.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Dec. 3

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

Monday, Dec. 4

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
7:00 p.m. Membership Committee - Zoom

Tuesday, Dec. 5

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

Wednesday, Dec. 6

9:00 a.m. GIL Class
2:30 p.m. Building and Grounds Committee – library
5:00-6:30 p.m. Lansing Children's Choir, Caroling Downtown Lansing
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
6:30 p.m. Mission Committee – Zoom
7:30 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study – Zoom

Thursday, Dec. 7

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. 8

5:30 p.m. Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, Dec. 9

12:00 p.m.-4 Tribal Meeting

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

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.

Join us TODAY, December 3 for our Advent Workshop! Cookie Decorating, Ornament Making, Fellowship! Litten Hall after our morning Worship Service

The Chancel Choir will present "Christmas Cantata" by Daniel Pinkham - for choir, organ and brass choir - on Sunday, December 10. Come worship with us with music and song as we continue to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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!

Dec 1 is World AIDS day and December is AIDS awareness month. The Mission Minute today honors the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which was begun in 1987 in San Francisco. It has since spread world wide with more than 48,000 memorial panels of those who have died of AIDS. The Archive Project is working on cataloging each quilt panel along with information, letters, biographies and photos to be compiled in a global database. For more information on this project and how you can contribute, send an email to archive@aidsquilt.org.

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 Higle / bob.higle@gmail.com / 517-512-8018

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.

December 3 ADVENT WORKSHOP

For all ages!

Come to Litten Hall for Cookie Decorating, Ornament Creating, Fellowship, Christmas Music!
Cookies can be taken home, ornaments can be given as gifts, warm fellowship will live in
your hearts!
Bring the whole family!

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