

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF LANSING



510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933  
(517) 482-0668 / [www.lansingfirstpres.com](http://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. 22, 2024 @ 10:00 AM  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

SERGEI KVITKO

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ELLIOT RYSER

*Give ear to our cries, O Shepherd of Israel;  
**let your face shine, and save us.**  
Though we've been fed the bread of tears,  
**let your face shine, and save us.**  
Though our enemies rise up,  
though we feel consumed and surrounded,  
**let your face shine, and save us.**  
Awaken your might; lead us gently in your light.  
**Restore us, O God, so that we might be saved. Amen.***

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** - Week Four - Love

As the birth of Jesus draws near and the waiting is almost over, in Psalm 36 we are reminded of the wideness of God's love.

"Your love is high as the heavens, Lord! Your faithfulness tall as the sky! Your justice is endless mountains. Your judgement is deep and wide. You rescue both people and beasts. Your kindness is a treasure."

**Loving God, help us remember your love surrounds us. Amen.**

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

**As a reminder that God is with us today.**

**++ HYMN #121[GTG]** O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.*

## **SERVICE OF RENEWAL**

CALL TO CONFESSION

ELLIOT RYSER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, giver of all good gifts,  
we come before you as children  
in need of your wisdom and grace.  
Our fears and our hopes are braided together  
in the rhythm of daily life.  
Our visions of the future  
depend on our own hands and ability.  
Our expectations remain reasonable  
and within our control.  
Break into this tangle of fear and hope,  
bringing peace to our souls.  
Break into our vision of the future,  
returning us to your hands.  
Break into our expectations,  
awakening us with curiosity and wonder;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ELLIOT RYSER

Christ's coming is certain.  
God's promise is true.  
Trust in the transformational power  
of God's forgiveness  
and receive the gift of God's love.  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

447

## We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C  
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am  
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G  
 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**

ELLIOT RYSER

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**

ELLIOT RYSER

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**

Micah 5:2-5a

ELLIOT RYSER

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon

our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

**ANTHEM** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr Rose Rodrigue CHANCEL CHOIR

*Lo, how a rose. As men have sung. It came a flower.  
Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.  
O flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God: from sin and death he frees us and lightens every load.*

**SECOND READING** Matthew 11:2-11 REV. STANLEY JENKINS

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**SERMON** REV. STANLEY JENKINS

**++ HYMN #101[GTG]** No Wind at the Window  
*This 20th-century retelling of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) effectively incorporates characteristic features of the folksong style its Irish tune requires, especially in the lists of "no" and "both." The tune is named for a many-talented Irish saint of the 6th century (COLUMCILLE)*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

REV. STANLEY JENKINS

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 two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 3/2 time. The melody is in the Treble clef, and the bass line is in the Bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics 'A - men, a - men.' are written below the first staff, and 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' are written below the second staff. The music consists of simple chords and moving lines, typical of a hymn accompaniment.

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

**PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** “Gabriel’s Message” arr Gail Lund CHANCEL CHOIR

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came. His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
All hail said he, though blessed mother Mary, most highly favored lady, Gloria.  
For known a blessed mother thou shalt be. All generations laud and honor thee.  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold. Most highly favored lady, Gloria.  
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. “To me be as it pleases God.” She said.*

*“My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria.  
Of her Emmanuel the Christ was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn.  
And Christian folk thru-out the world shall ever say, Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

**++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 #110 [GTG] Love Has Come**

*Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being “Love.” The senses “seen and heard” (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: “Love is the gift of Christmas.”*

**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

\*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:	ELLIOT RYSER
ORGANIST:	SERGEI KVITKO
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	MEGAN HIGLE
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH LIFE / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:	PRINCE SOLACE
PASTOR:	REV. STANLEY JENKINS
ADVENT READERS:	KATHY BANGHART & BEV BOCKES

**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 website to make a donation*



*and it will take you to the*

## This Week at a Glance

**Sunday, December 22**

10:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

Worship service – Sanctuary

Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel



**Monday, December 23**

9:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

GIL classes

Church staff meeting – Library

Bell Choir rehearsal

Yoga – Yoga room

**Tuesday, December 24**

7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services - Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 25**

Merry Christmas

**Thursday, December 26**

Church Closed

**Friday, December 27**

Church Closed

**Saturday, December 28**

**Sunday, December 29**

10:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

Worship service (pajama) - Sanctuary

Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – Chapel

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**Blue Christmas Prayer Service today at 11:30 a.m. in the parlor after the regular service.**

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 today at 1130 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.

**On December 29, Join us for Cozy Worship!**

Wear your coziest clothes—pajamas, loungewear, or slippers—and come to Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary. We'll enjoy a **Carol Sing**, share special music, and gather for a time of warmth and fellowship. Let's celebrate the season together in comfort and joy!

**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.

**ADULT FORUM**

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

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

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