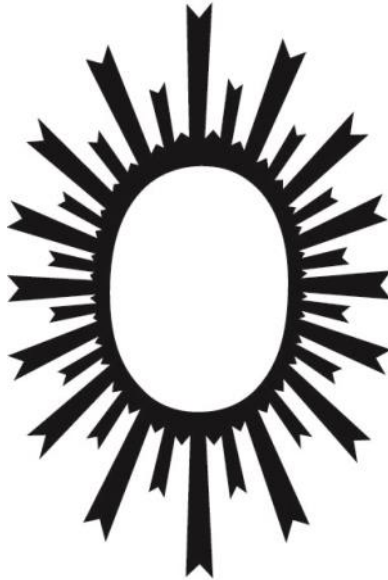


The Service for the Lord's Day



fpcro

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

529 Hendrie Boulevard
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone (248) 541-0108
www.fpcro.org

Please silence all devices

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

For young children, the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary is open and our nursery is also available for those who prefer childcare for infants and toddlers. Sunday school classes are available for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade during the 10:30am service, after the Time with Children.

I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

9:00 am

“Savior of the Nations, Come” BWV 534

J.S. Bach
Public Domain

10:30 am

“Advent Hope”

~Jubilate Bells

Derek Hakes
©2011 Lorenz Publishing Co.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES¹

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

All: God of joy, each week we come ever closer to you. We feel our hearts quickening with excitement at the approach of Jesus’ birth. May our souls magnify you, as Mary’s did. May our lives point to yours, as John’s did. May we remain patient, listening for your Word and your Spirit, even as we prepare for the Christmas celebration. With hope, peace, joy, and love we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #153**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788); Music: Roland Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Vaughan Williams, Public Domain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH²

9 am: The Hayes Family
10:30 am: Louise & Cal Goddard

One: What must it be like to encounter a season of new life and rebirth in the midst of a winter of the soul? ... And so we offer this mysterious prayer:

All: Lord Jesus, quickly come.

ADVENT RESPONSE



We light one can-dle for Joy as we long for your co-ming, O Christ. Al-le - lu - ia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: When we are weighed down and our thoughts are heavy, we can lean into God's grace, which promises to transform us. So with confidence we say, Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

All: God of the wilderness, God of the wastelands of our lives, lead us apart to those places where we hear your word most clearly. In the startling awareness of Christ's coming, may we order our lives with repentance and with compassion. Sift from our lives all useless chaff, that like good wheat into a barn, we may be gathered into the realm of your righteousness, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In Christ's name we pray,

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's anger is but for a moment. God's favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

All: Because of Christ, we are the redeemed who walk on God's Holy Way. Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Hymn #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Joy is ours because of the forgiveness of Christ. As we anticipate God's incarnation, may the joy and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace and reconciliation with your neighbors, such as a hand over your heart.

(10:30)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy God, we rejoice that we can come into your house today to hear a word from you and to worship with those who love you, too. Speak to our hearts, as you have spoken to your people for generations. Transform us for service. Remind us whose we are. This we pray with Advent anticipation. Amen.

PSALM

“Psalm 146”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Nettleton*, #68 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

***“Blest are they whose hope is vested in the God of Israel;
In the hour of deepest anguish, God’s provisions will not fail;
Freedom for the shackled spirit, strength and stay to those who fall;
Blessings offered without measure, righteousness enough for all.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 146©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Pew Bible, OT pg. 735

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30)

ANTHEM

“Prepare the Way”

arr. Allan Petker

~Chancel Choir

“Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet one who comes in glory, fore-told in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name. Christ brings God’s rule, O Zion, he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your savior’s rule embrace. And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.”

©1996 John Rich Music Press (admin. Pavane Music)

SERMON

“The Escape from Goblin Mode”

Rev. Emma Nickel

III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“A Carol for Advent”

Gilbert Martin

~Audrey Frieberg

“How beautiful the feet who stand on Zion’s hill, who bring salvation on their tongues, and words of peace reveal. How beautiful, how charming and how blessed! How charming is their voice, how sweet the tidings are! O Zion, see your Savior King; he reigns and triumphs here. How beautiful, how charming and how blessed! How blessed are our eyes that see this heavenly light; the prophets and kings desired it long, but died without the sight. The Lord makes bare his arm through all the earth abroad; let every nation now behold their Savior and their God! How beautiful, how charming and how blessed!”

©1998 The Sacred Music Press (admin. The Lorenz Corp.)

***DOXOLOGY**

Hymn #34

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Declare your trust and hope in the one who has come, and is still coming. You may declare it with your mouth. You may declare it with your hands and feet. You may declare it with your mind and heart. This week, let us strengthen our hearts and make our declaration of faith.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: 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

IV. FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN #534**

“When the King Shall Come Again”

Text: Christopher Idle (1938-) ©1982 Jubilate Hymns (admin. Hope Publishing Co.); Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582

***BENEDICTION**

(10:30)

POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come” BWV 661

J.S. Bach

**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

10:30 am Liturgist, Ted DeVantier

1. Opening Sentences, Prayer of the Day, Prayer of Confession, Prayer for Illumination Invitation to the Offering, Invitation to Discipleship, and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving adapted from *Connections Worship Companion*, Ed. David Gambrell (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2022), 18-21.
2. Advent Wreath liturgy adapted from Discipleship Ministries, © 2016, The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203. Telephone (877) 899-2780, ext 7073. Used by permission. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/advent-wreath-meditations-year-a-the-book-of-isaiah>

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Christmas Eve Worship

5 pm—Family Service and Pageant

7 pm—Traditional Service with Candlelight (will also be Livestreamed)

Christmas Day

Worship at 10:30 am. We'll tell the Christmas story through favorite carols.

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Emma Nickel, Pastor, ext. 206, enickel@fpcro.org

Joseph Jackson, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, ext. 218, jjackson@fpcro.org

Kent Wattleworth, Chancel Choir Director, ext. 222, kwattleworth@fpcro.org

Audrey Frieberg, Preschool Music Director, afrieberg@fpcro.org

Joelle Jarrait, Director of Christian Education, ext. 204, jjarrait@fpcro.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kari Peruski, Church Administrator, ext. 203, kperuski@fpcro.org

Sally Gilreath, Administrative Assistant, ext. 200, sgilreath@fpcro.org

Todd Crawford, Evening Reception, ext. 200, tcrawford@fpcro.org

Alan Glasel, Facility Manager, ext. 201, aglasel@fpcro.org

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*; Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*; Olivia Donnel, *soprano*; Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

S.T.A.G.E. Schedule (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*)
Youth Ministry for Grades 6-12

- **December 11–Meeting to Plan Youth Sunday** at Greenfield Presbyterian Church. **All grades will meet together from 4:30–6:30 pm, with dinner at 6 pm.**
- **December 18**–Christmas celebration with white Elephant gift exchange and luminaria prep for Christmas at Cana Lutheran Church. **All grades meet together from 4:30–7 pm, with dinner at 6 pm.** Luminaria are an annual fundraiser to support the STAGE program throughout the year.
- **December 25 and January 1**–No meetings - Christ is born! Happy New Year!
- **January 8–Meeting at Greenfield Presbyterian** to finalize Youth Sunday plans. **All grades will meet together from 4:30 pm–6:30 pm, with dinner at 6 pm.**
***Dinner still needed for this night. Sign-up to help with link below.*
- **Saturday, January 14**–Youth Sunday rehearsal **10 am** at **Greenfield Presbyterian**
- **January 15–YOUTH SUNDAY at Greenfield Presbyterian Church, with services at 9 am and 11 am.** The Sub Sale fundraiser will kick off on this day, which is a mission trip fundraiser.
- **January 22–Crossroads** mission service day in the morning/throughout the day. Details coming soon.
- **January 29–Outdoor winter fun.** Details coming soon, depending on weather.



Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Today's **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Chris Klein in honor of Naomi/Ruth Circle.

Luminaria for Christmas Eve

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry is offering luminaria to honor and remember loved ones this season, at the suggested cost of \$5 each. The luminaria will be personalized with your loved one's name, lit and displayed outside our church on Christmas Eve. **Submit orders by today, December 11.** Order forms are available at the CE reception desk or you may download an order form online. Pay for orders online with PayPal to stageyouth@gmail.com or by check, made out and mailed to S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry, 2119 Catalpa Dr., Berkley, MI 48072

Coffee Hour Fellowship—Cookies & Cocoa at Church Today!

We'll share Christmas cookies and cocoa with each other after the 10:30 am worship service today, **Sunday, December 11** in the Kirkman Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Caroling Today!

On **Sunday, December 11 at 12 pm** please join in with other church members as we go caroling. We will visit members' homes to sing Christmas carols—they all sound beautiful whoever sings them!—and bring smiles to faces. We will drive between homes, but please dress for the weather as this is an outdoor activity.

Lessons and Carols on December 18

The Chancel Choir will lead us in worship on December 18, with one service at 10:30, in the traditional service of Lessons & Carols. This is a service of worship in which the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus are told in nine short Bible readings or lessons from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of carols, hymns, and anthems.

The Mitten Tree

Please think about what you will hang on the Mitten Tree we use to gather warm things for those less fortunate than ourselves—gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, etc. Our gifts will go to adults at the Welcome Inn, Second Mile Center, on the streets of Detroit, as well as children at Second Mile Center and local schools in Royal Oak. The need is great! Thank you in advance. Questions? Contact Julie Matthews at 248-647-3796.

Year End Contributions

We welcome your gifts at any time during the year, but we know many folks like to offer year-end donations. If you would like to make such a contribution to FPCRO, please make sure it is delivered to the church or postmarked by December 31 to be included on your 2022 contribution statement. Otherwise, per IRS guidelines, it will appear on your 2023 giving statement. The church offices will be closed on December 26 and 27. We will be open 9am-3pm on December 28 and 29 and from 9am-1pm on December 30. Remember you can donate online on our website **fpcro.org** anytime by clicking the red **GIVE button**.