

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Our Approach to God

Prelude Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 J.S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – the Candle of Joy
The first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of hope.
As we light it again, we remember that Christ is the hope of the world.
The second candle is the candle of peace.
Jesus is the Prince of Peace and promises a peace that passes understanding.
Today we light the candle of joy.
Joy is all around us – in the children, the lights, and the music.
So often we think joy must be something big. A brass band or a parade.
Just as easily, and far more often, we can feel joy in a hug, we can see joy in a smile, or hear it in laughter.
Help us to not overlook the simple joys.
This week on our Advent journey, open our eyes to the joy that surrounds us.
Let us prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ and find true joy in him. May the light of joy shine in our hearts and may we share that joy with others. Lord, make us your candle of joy.

The Special Music Light One Candle N. Sleeth
Chancel Choir with younger singers from the congregation

*The Prayer of Praise and Adoration
**With laughing hearts and joyous hope, we come to you, O God.
With tired souls and withered dreams, we come to you, O God.
In our joy and in our sorrow, we turn to you, O God. Renew us
with your love. Gather us into your strong embrace, that we**

**may know your presence and rejoice in your promised coming.
With hopeful expectation, we pray. Amen.**

*The Gloria Patri *Glory Be to the Father* 579
**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. Amen.**

The Word of God

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 page 1021
*The Hymn *Once in Royal David's City* 49
The Gospel Reading Luke 1:46-55 page 1458
The Sermon "The News from Nazareth" Rev. Mark Morningstar

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed (traditional) hymnal page 14
*The Hymn *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* 20

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)
**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 sins as we forgive those
who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts
The Offertory The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came *Basque Carol*
*The Doxology
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures
here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father,
Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**
*The Prayer of Dedication

*The Hymn *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* 38
*The Charge and Benediction

*The Congregational Response Go with us, Lord 535
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
That in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.**

*Postlude Gabriels Message M. Bedford

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgists and Advent Wreath Lighters: Barbara Easton and Kitty Myers
Ushers: Ginny & Pete Brucker, Karen Kalina, and Sayre Nichol
Greeter: Tom Poole
Fellowship Hour Host: Peggy Donaldson
Musical Talents: Thomas Heidenreich – Director of Music Ministry, the Chancel Choir, and younger singers from the congregation.

**Please join us following worship in the gathering area for
fellowship hour.**

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Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 14, 2025



Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.

Announcements and Upcoming Events



TODAY, at 4:00pm, Concerts at First Presbyterian Saginaw presents the second annual Handel's Messiah concert. The concert will include the Saginaw Choral Society, and features the Christmas portion of Messiah, plus the Hallelujah Chorus.



2026 Directory:

In order to print an accurate church directory, we are making sure that we have your correct information. Sonia and/or Adam will be at the table in the gathering area with printed information sheets. Please stop by and make sure we have all your information correct. If you take the sheet home, please make sure to bring it back.

Let's Go Caroling:

Please join us for Christmas Caroling to our homebound friends **Saturday, December 20 at 12:15 pm**. We will meet at the church, get on rented buses, and drive around bringing Christmas joy. We will return to church at 3:30 p.m. for food and fellowship. Please bring a snack to share and your best holiday spirit!



Estimate of Giving:

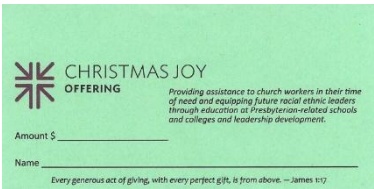
Thanks to all who have submitted Estimates of Giving for 2026. If you have not already done so, please turn in your 2026 Estimate of Giving slip by either mailing it to the church or dropping it in the offering plate. We are working on our budget for 2026, and many programs of the church depend upon your Estimate of Giving. Thank you for your faithfulness!

2025 End of Year Contributions:

The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2025) to claim a deduction for 2025. Giving in 2026 and predating a check for 2025 does not qualify for a 2025 deduction.



Christmas Joy Offering:



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received **NEXT** Sunday, December 21. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE, AT
7:00 P.M. FOR A SERVICE OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS**



The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called a Special Congregational meeting for the purpose of Electing the new Elders. **The meeting will be Sunday December 28, 2025 immediately following worship.**



Calendar Correction: There will be NO Sunday school on Sunday, December 28.



Poinsettias



In Memory of

Rev. Ken Anderson
Jack & Lucy Specht
Phil & June Herter
Arlene & Lewis Imerman
Ann & Ellis Ivey Jr.
Alice & Reid Calcott Jr.
Our Parents
Anne & Hamilton Easton
Reynold & Mary Jean Myers
Ken Moran
William & Ella Alber & Kathy Hoeppepner
Marilyn & Steve Salak
Our Grandparents
Our Parents
Our beloved daughter Emily
Family
Pamela A. Gates
Ray Shepherd
Mary Ann Brown (Mother)

Given by

Ruth Anderson
Fred & Genie Herter
Fred & Genie Herter
Reid Calcott
Reid Calcott
Reid Calcott
Pete & Ginny Brucker
Kitty & Dennis Myers
Kitty & Dennis Myers
Pam Moran
The Hoeppepner Family
Kathy Salak
Adam & Samantha Engel
Deanna & Mike Patton
Karen & Mike Hahn
Betty Miller
Craig Gates
His Family
Christy Higley