

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

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. If you are visiting with us, please introduce yourself to the pastor following the service.

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship pads and pass them back to the center aisle.

After worship, please greet your neighbors by name.

Our Approach to God

Prelude "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Maureen Howell

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.

Response "Light the Advent Candle (Advent Song)" by Mary Lu Walker
Collin Whitfield

*The Hymn "Prepare the Way" 13

*The Prayer of Praise and Adoration

God of the darkened sky and chilly dawn, God of the blanket of snow and the icy pond, God at all seasons, teach us your truths in these short days and long nights. Teach us the lessons of waiting, of opening our eyes to see everyday wonders: the gurgle of a baby, a call from a forgotten friend, the twinkle of lights, the crunch of snow. God of all seasons, we celebrate this day with you. Amen.

*The Response (all sing hymn 23 refrain)

"Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo"

The Special Music "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
by Marty Haugen, sung by Collin Whitfield

The Word of God

The Psalm Psalm 139:1-6 page 688 OT

The Time with the Children

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 page 774 OT

The Gospel Reading John 1:40-46 page 123 NT

The Sermon Where We Grow Up Rev. Ted McCulloch

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

CHURCH NEWS



Music and Worship Committee

We need your help!! The Music and Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to help with Fellowship Hour after worship service on Sundays. We would like to offer coffee, juice, donuts or cookies after worship service. There is a sign-up sheet available so please look for a Sunday service you would like to host!



Stewardship

We have received 38 Estimates of Giving for 2023. If you have not already done so, please turn in your **yellow 2023 Estimate of Giving slip** either mailing it to the church or dropping it in the collection box. We are working on the budget for 2023 as many of the programs at the church depend upon your estimate of giving. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Inclement Weather Policy

When Saginaw Township Schools have been closed due to inclement weather (snow, ice, temperatures, etc.), any church programming for that day will also be cancelled. This includes any activity of the church or outside groups that use church facilities. Examples are (but not limited to): Session, Committee meetings, Choirs, Bible Study, Women's Circle, Community events.



- Sunday December 18, we will welcome Rev. Michael Hahn to our pulpit.
- The church office will be open Monday – Thursday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm during this transition period. Folks needing congregational care should contact the office at (989) 792-1023 and the appropriate individuals will be contacted. Voicemails and emails will be monitored when the office is closed. Any changes to the hours will be announced in the bulletin announcements and the weekly update.
- We are looking for volunteers to help with shoveling snow this year. Please call the church @ 989-792-1023
- The Florence Gilmour Circle will meet @ 9:00 a.m. at Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot Rd to share a meal and Christmas joy!
- **The church office will not have regular hours on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Please make sure you call before you come to the church.**



The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called a Special Congregational meeting for the purpose of Electing the new Elders. The meeting will be **TODAY** Sunday December 11, 2022 immediately following worship. The nominees are Andrea Drapp, Laura Bosley, Brian McNalley, Kitty Myers and Karen Schadel.