

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 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.*

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

\* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

## Our Approach to God

Prelude “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” arr. Egil Hovland

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - the Candle of Love

We light the candle of hope.

**Show us the creative power of hope.**

The candle of peace.

**Teach us the peace that comes from Christ.**

The candle of joy.

**Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, a joy that must be shared.**

We also light the fourth candle – the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times.

**We see this love in a special way in the Christmas story.**

There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death.

**We love, because God loves us. Let us prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ and know the love that comes from him. May the light of love shine in our hearts and may we share that love with others. Lord, make us your candle of love.**

Response “Light the Advent Candle (Advent Song)’ by Mary Lu Walker  
Chancel Choir

\*The Hymn of Praise People, Look East 12

\*The Prayer of Praise and Adoration

**Your steadfast love endures forever, O God and your name is heralded throughout the land. Songs of rejoicing are heard in your sanctuary as hymns of praise proceed from our mouths. You fill your people with the gift of your Holy Spirit, and you send forth a savior with the promise of new life. Great and wonderful are your deeds. We worship you in great adoration. Amen.**

\*The Response (all sing hymn 23 refrain)

**“Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo”**

The Anthem “Who Would Send a Baby?” by Mary Kay Beall  
Chancel Choir

## The Word of God

The Psalm Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 page 648 OT

The Time with the Children (no sermon, dismiss to Sunday School)

The Epistle Reading Romans 1:1-17 page 201 NT

The Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25 page 2 NT

The Sermon “What’s In a Name?” Rev. Michael Hahn

## Our Response to Serve

\*The Affirmation of Faith

**I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God’s love in human flesh. I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, such as the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the energy with which we set about reshaping the world in our time. I believe in the angels’ message that we should not be afraid - that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities. I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas - that if I wait in silence, I will experience the presence of the one born in the stable, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.**

\*The Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* 41

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 "People, Look East" arr. Wayne L. Wold

\*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 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 44

\*The Charge and Benediction

\*The Congregational Response *Away in a Manger (verse 3)* 24  
***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.***

\*Postlude "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" arr. Wayne L. Wold

\* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

We welcome Reverend Michael Hahn to our pulpit today. Rev. Hahn served Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church for 20 years retiring in 2015. Rev. Hahn achieved a B.A. in Sociology and a M.A.Ed. in Language Development from Washington University. After completing a Master of Divinity at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, he was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

# Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 18, 2022



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



# Poinsettias

## In Honor of

Pastor Philomena Ofori-Nipaah

## In Memory of

Rev. Ken Anderson  
 Jack & Lucy Specht  
 Philip Herter  
 Ann & Ellis Ivey Jr.  
 Alice & Reid Calcott Jr.  
 Our Parents  
 Anne & Hamilton Easton  
 Jack Winchester & Scott Winchester  
 Our Parents & Andrea's sister  
 Marcy Trammell  
 Ken Moran  
 William & Ella Alber & Kathy Hoepfner  
 Marilyn & Steve Salak  
 Josephine & Frank Hunt, Dennis & Frank Hunt,  
 Thelma & Dennie Long & Barry Long  
 Arlene Besner  
 Alice & Frank Briggs  
 John Main & Robert Main  
 Our Parents



## Given by

Reid Calcott

## Given by

Ruth Anderson  
 Fred & Genie Herter and Family  
 Fred & Genie Herter and Family  
 Reid Calcott  
 Reid Calcott  
 Pete & Ginny Brucker  
 Kitty Myers & Barbara Easton  
 Alice Winchester  
 Andrea & Dan Drapp  
 Betty Leaym  
 Pam Moran  
 The Hoepfner Family  
 Kathy Salak  
 Jerry & JoAnn Hunt  
 Jerry & JoAnn Hunt  
 Her Family  
 Beverly Briggs  
 Meredith Main  
 Deanna & Mike Patton



This Year, the Christmas Eve Service will be @ 7:00 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church. It will be a combination of hymns, carols, and meditations for people of all ages. The service will end with the singing of "Silent Night" and the passing of the light by candlelight. Rev. Ted McCulloch will lead our service.

Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. will be a joint worship with Countryside – Trinity, Second Presbyterian at First Presbyterian Church 121 S. Harrison St. Saginaw 48602. Service will be led by Rev. Ted McCulloch.

## Feeding Individuals Sharing Hope – F.I.S.H.



On communion Sundays we also collect food for the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. We know that it is our privilege to feed the hungry and care for the poor as we are fed and sustained by the grace of God. At this time, a request has been made for **NO** boxes of cereal. Items such as pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruits, ramen, canned soup etc. are always appreciated. There are tables set up in the main hallway to place your donations on. Communion is Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.



- 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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel; hear us, leader of your flock.

Seated on your throne above the winged creatures, reveal yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Show us your strength; come and save us! Bring us back, O God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved! How much longer, LORD God Almighty, will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink. You let the surrounding nations fight over our land; our enemies insult us. Bring us back, Almighty God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved! Preserve and protect the people you have chosen, the nation you made so strong. We will never turn away from you again; keep us alive, and we will praise you. Bring us back, LORD God Almighty. Show us your mercy, and we will be saved.

## Romans 1:1-17

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and an apostle chosen and called by God to preach his Good News.

The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures. It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Through him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. This also includes you who are in Rome, whom God has called to belong to Jesus Christ.

And so, I write to all of you in Rome whom God loves and has called to be his own people:

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because the whole world is hearing about your faith. God is my witness that what I say is true—the God whom I serve with all my heart by preaching the Good News about his Son. God knows that I remember you every time I pray. I ask that God in his good will may at last make it possible for me to visit you now. For I want very much to see you, in order to share a spiritual blessing with you to make you strong. What I mean is that both you and I will be helped at the same time, you by my faith and I by yours.

You must remember, my friends, that many times I have planned to visit you, but something has always kept me from doing so. I want to win converts among you also, as I have among other Gentiles. For I have an obligation to all peoples, to the civilized and to the savage, to the educated and to the ignorant. So then, I am eager to preach the Good News to you also who live in Rome.

I have complete confidence in the gospel; it is God's power to save all who believe, first the Jews and also the Gentiles. For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is through faith from beginning to end. As the scripture says, "The person who is put right with God through faith shall live."

# Matthew 1:18-25

## Good News Translation

### **The Birth of Jesus Christ**

<sup>18</sup> This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so, he made plans to break the engagement privately. <sup>20</sup> While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. <sup>21</sup> She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, <sup>23</sup> "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel" (which means, "God is with us").

<sup>24</sup> So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. <sup>25</sup> But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.