

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

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.

*Congregation standing for those who are able

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

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

Our Approach to God

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

The Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle of Hope

We gather as the people of God, responding to God's call to worship.

We gather to give God all our praise and adoration.

We gather with expectant hearts.

On the night of Jesus' birth, the glory of the Lord shone bright in the darkness as an angel proclaimed to the shepherds, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

We worship God, anticipating this good news.

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

[Lighting of the Advent candle.] His coming is good news of great joy!

All glory and praise be to God!

*The Hymn of Praise *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* 9

*The Call to Confession

In this season of Advent, let us prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior as we confess our sin to God.

*The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we praise you for our hope in the good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of his return. We confess how easily we lose hope. We get tired of waiting. We get discouraged when things don't go as we planned. We wonder if you remember us. We wonder if you will keep your promises. We end up putting our hope in our own efforts, our abilities, finances, or in earthly leaders, and we forget that true hope is only found in you. Forgive us, Lord.

[Silent confession.] **Merciful God, fill us with your hope as we wait for your coming. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

*The Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: that Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners. In Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Response *Angels We Have Heard on High*(chorus) 23
Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo.

The Anthem *Prepare the Way, O Zion* S. Tucker

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading *Luke 1:5-25* page 1456

The Sermon *Anticipating the Good News* Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*(traditional) hymnal, page 14

*The Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 2

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

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.

Holy and right it is...

...We worship and adore your glorious name, saying together:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Most righteous God...

...Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit...

...We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Hold the bread until all have been served. We will eat it together, symbolizing our unity in Christ. Drink the cup when it is served, symbolizing your individual relationship with Christ.)

Response of Prayer and Praise

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Gabriel's Message M. Bedford

*The Doxology Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verse 4 22

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

*The Prayer of Dedication

*The Hymn *It Came Upon the 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 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* J. Vivian

Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 1, 2024



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

Liturgist and Advent Wreath Lighters: The Sova Family
Greeters: Betty Miller
Fellowship Hour: Sonia Hoepfner & friends
Musical Talents: Thomas Heidenreich – Director of Music Ministry and the Chancel Choir
Communion Servers: Pam Moran, Heather Rousseau, and Anne & Wally Schmidt

Please join us immediately following worship in the gathering area for refreshments and fellowship.

Songs and broadcast are covered by:
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For The Hearing Impaired

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

Announcements and Upcoming Event

Poinsettias

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone the order forms are in the gathering area. **The deadline to order is Next Sunday, December 8.** These beautiful poinsettias are \$10.00 each and have multiple large blossoms. Take your poinsettias home after the evening Christmas Eve service.



Angel Tree is a part of Prison Fellowship and provides an opportunity for our church to extend the hope of the Gospel through delivering Christmas gifts to children on behalf of their incarcerated parents. **All gifts are due back at church by next Sunday, December 8.**

The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called a Special Congregational meeting for the purpose of Electing the new Elders and approving the Terms of Call for Pastor Ruth. **The meeting will be Sunday December 15, 2024 immediately following worship.**



HANDEL'S MESSIAH: A SING-ALONG



You are invited to celebrate the Christmas season by attending the *Messiah* sing-along at First Presbyterian Church. Come and hear a combined community choir and soloists for a sing-along performance of selections from Handel's beloved *Messiah*. The concert is Sunday, December 15, at 4 PM. The evening will conclude with the Hallelujah Chorus. Invite your friends, singers or not. Plan to come, and hear the Christmas story through song; you will certainly find yourself humming along at least occasionally!

Let's Go Caroling

Please join us for Christmas Caroling to our homebound friends **Saturday, December 14 at 3:30 pm.** We will meet at the church, get on a rented bus, and drive around bringing Christmas joy. We will return to church at 6:30 pm for food and fellowship, and finish the evening with a carol sing-along. Please bring a snack to share and your best holiday spirit!



A Book Group for Christmas "The 13th Gift" by Joanne Huist Smith



The group will meet to discuss the book, enjoy some fellowship, and eat some treats **NEXT Sunday, December 8 @ 1:30 p.m.** No need to sign up, just show up!