

Sunday Morning Worship

November 19, 2023

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.

*Congregation standing for those who are able

Our Approach to God

Prelude *Variations on "Kremser"* Curtis

The Call to Worship

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

We give thanks to God and praise his name.

The Lord is good and his love endures forever.

His faithfulness continues through all generations.

*The Hymn *Now Thank We All Our God* 555

*The Call to Confession

God is light. In him, there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one and other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. With this assurance, let us confess our sin to God.

*The Prayer of Confession

Generous God, you have blessed us abundantly with every good and perfect gift. Forgive us for our feelings of entitlement and our lack of gratitude. Forgive us for the ways that we misuse your precious gifts. Forgive us for being selfish as our hearts long for more even though we have enough. Forgive us for being envious of those who have received different gifts. Forgive us for our lack of generosity when we are reluctant to share your gifts. Lord, we repent of these attitudes and actions. [Silent Confession.] Merciful God, forgive us our sins and help us to be good and grateful stewards of all that you have given to us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Response *Give Thanks* Smith

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong" let the poor say "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us;
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.**

*The Passing of the Peace

The Anthem *Songs of Thanksgiving* Rogers
Piano duet: Deanna Patton and Laurel Taipale

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30 page 37 NT

The New Testament Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 page 278 NT

The Sermon Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

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

The Hymn *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* 422

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 *Simple Gifts* Barr

*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 *Let All Things Now Living* 554

*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 *Nun danket alle Gott* Knab

* Congregation standing for those who are able.

Liturgist: Karen Schadel

Greeters: Betty Miller

Fellowship Hour Servers: Fred & Genie Herter

Ushers: Randy Wierda & Patty Donahue

Musical Talent: Laurel Taipale and Deanna Patton

The office will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Second Presbyterian Church

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spcsaginaw.org

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

2nd @ Second

We will continue to study *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. Everyone is welcome to attend! 2nd @ Second will meet **TODAY** from 10:15-11:15 after the worship service in the library.

Hanging of the Greens



We will get busy immediately after worship **Next Sunday**, November 26 to decorate the church. When we're done, we'll enjoy lunch together. We will supply the pizza; you supply your beverage. Everyone is invited to help!

Communion Servers

If you are a past or present Elder or Deacon, please consider helping serve Communion on December 3. The signup sheet is in the gathering area.

Liturgists and Advent Wreath Lighters



During Advent we need both a liturgist and an Advent wreath candle lighter on Sunday mornings. We need two or more people or a family to do that. The signup sheets are in the gathering area.

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 **Sunday, December 3**. These beautiful poinsettias are \$10.00 each and have multiple large blossoms. They will decorate the church for 9:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 24, and will stay until after the 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Take your poinsettias home after the evening Christmas Eve service.

Angel Tree



There are still a few tags available. As a church we purchase Christmas gifts for those children who have a parent or guardian incarcerated. The nametags with gift ideas are on the table in the main hallway. The due date will be **December 10**. These gifts are delivered to the children by our members before Christmas.

Boy Scouts Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 321 from Second Presbyterian Church will be taking orders for Christmas greens in the gathering area after worship. **Today, November 19, is the last day for orders.** The orders will be ready for pickup Sunday, December 3 following worship outside at the Boy Scout shed. The profits from these items support the Scouts going to camps and events all year long. Please support Troop 321.



Food Pantry Collection

We will continue to collect non-perishable food items through the First Sunday of Advent **Sunday, December 3**. This Holiday Season let's share some of our abundance to help feed others.

Random Acts of Kindness A Book Group for Christmas



To get into the holiday spirit, we are going to have our first Christmas inspired book club. The book is "Christmas Jars" by Jason F. Wright. Grab a copy or download the book, read it over the next several weeks, then we will meet on Thursday, December 7 @ 6:00 p.m. to discuss the book, eat some treats and enjoy some holiday fellowship! Please bring a treat to share with others. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. No need to sign-up, just show up.