

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

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

Our Approach to God

Prelude *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Page

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

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God.

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

We celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby and we wait for Jesus to come again.

We light this candle of hope - the hope of our Savior, Jesus.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

We light this candle of peace – the peace that Jesus, our Savior, brings to the world.

Hear God’s promise of peace...God is faithful to his promises.

Thanks be to God! We praise God for the peace that we have in Jesus, our Savior.

Let us pray... Come, Lord Jesus, our light, and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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

*The Call to Confession

The Psalmist prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Let us, also, ask God to search our hearts as we confess our sins.

*The Prayer of Confession

God of peace, it is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives as we rush to get things done, place financial burdens on ourselves, and take our anxiety out on others. Forgive us, Lord. [Silent Confession.] Lord, we thank you that your peace is always there for us. When we feel overwhelmed, worried, irritable, or guilty, instill within us your peace. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Our sins are forgiven. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
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 Passing of the Peace

The Anthem *Peace, Peace* arr. Bock
Chancel Choir

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38 page 77 NT

The Sermon Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith The Apostle’s Creed (Traditional) hymnal, page 14

*The Hymn *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph, verses 1-4* 19

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 *O Holy Night* arr. Coate
Piano Duet – Meredith Main and Deb Easlick

*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 *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 *Petite Noel* Simone

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist and Advent Wreath Lighters: Sova Family

Ushers: Pete & Ginny Brucker

Greeters: Millar Family

Fellowship Hour Host: Genie Herter

Musical Talent: Laurel Taipale, Meredith Main, and Deb Easlick

Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 10, 2023



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Peace

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

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



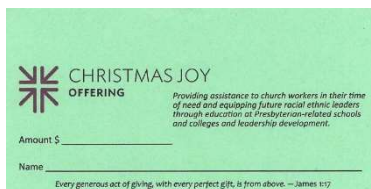
Florence Gilmour Circle

All women of the church are invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 13**, at Sullivan's Food and Spirits 5235 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638, at 9:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please reach out to Carol Poole @989-793-7485.

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received **Sunday, December 24 at the 9:00 a.m. service.**

This offering supports the work of Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and also provides supplemental income and medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families. There are Christmas Joy envelopes in the pews, but you may also specify that your offering is for Christmas Joy.



2023 End of Year Contributions



The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2023) to claim a deduction for 2023. Giving in 2024 and predating a check for 2023 does not qualify for a 2023 deduction.

Stewardship



We have received 47 Estimates of Giving for 2024. If you have not already done so, please turn in your **2024 Estimate of Giving** slip (one is enclosed in this newsletter) by either mailing it to the church or dropping it in the offering plate. We are working on our budget for 2024 and many programs of the church depend upon your Estimate of Giving. Thank you for your faithfulness!

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 17, 2023 immediately following worship.



The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, February 4, 2024 immediately following worship. Any business of the congregation or corporation can be conducted.

The office will be open Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. As always, please call the office before driving to the church as unforeseen circumstances can occur.

***The office will be closed on Monday , December 25.**

Luke 1:26-38 New International Version

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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