

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

9:30 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.

Our Approach to God

Prelude *The First Noel* Innes
One License #113952

The Call to Worship

Let us praise the name of the Lord!

God commanded and we were created.

Leaders and followers, old and young,

all of God's beloved children, all people everywhere as with the angels,

Let us come and praise the exalted name of the Lord.

Let us worship God.

The Call to Confession

In faith and hope we trust that God is merciful and just and receives our prayers with grace. In humility and with meekness, let us confess our sin together.

The Prayer of Confession

Holy God, though we are in awe of the dawn of your light in Jesus Christ, we remain self-centered and cling to the sin of the world. We celebrate the birth of our savior, yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him. We are called to pursue justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you; yet we are content to seek our own comfort and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need. By the light of the Christ child, lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness, as we see to love all of your bountiful creation.

Hear us Lord, as we approach you from the silence of our hearts with our individual intentions (Silence).

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

*The Hymn *Once in Royal David's City* 49
Congregation sings verses 1 & 3

*The Assurance of Pardon
We are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

*The Response (all sing hymn 23 refrain)
"Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo"

The Special Music *Hymns Sing*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verses 1 & 2)	31
What Child Is This (verses 1 & 2)	53
Good Christian Friends Rejoice (verses 1 & 2)	28

The Word of God

The Time with the Children		
The Old Testament Reading	Psalm 148	page 693 OT
The Gospel Reading	Luke 2:41-52	page 80 NT
The Sermon	"Losing the Sight of Jesus"	Pastor Philomena

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith (Confession of 1967, 9.18)
God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose of Israel and for humanity would be realized. Amen.

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 *Forest Green* Wood
One License # 209690

*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 *Go Tell it on the Mountain* 29
Congregation sings verses 1, 2, & 3

*The Charge and Benediction

*Postlude *Petite Noel* Simone
One License #1012054

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Our guest musician today is Laurel Taipale, organ & piano

Songs and broadcast covered by:
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Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

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

Announcements and Upcoming Events

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Alice Briggs at her death on December 18, 2021.

Estimates of Giving

Thank you to those of you who have submitted an Estimate of Giving Card for 2022. So far, we have received Estimates of Giving from 51 families, we sent out 170 cards. That means 30% of folks have responded. We know not everyone is able to plan their giving for the next year, but if you do plan to give, please consider completing an estimate of giving card. It helps the finance committee put together the budget. Additionally, these Estimates of Giving will be very helpful for 2022 when we hope to have salary discussions with pastoral candidates.

Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes are ready for those who requested them for 2022. Please see the table in the Gathering Area.

Requesting Offering Envelopes

If you did not complete an Estimate of Giving card and would like offering envelopes, please stop by the table in the Gathering Area and request envelopes.

Tracking Contributions

If you are a regular worshiper or member of the congregation, we typically track giving and send a statement at the end of the year for records and tax purposes. Giving is tracked; if you complete an estimate of giving card, if you use envelopes, or if you consistently write a check. If you are a newer worshiper with our congregation and have never received a statement, your contributions might not be tracked. If you would like to receive statements beginning in 2022, please stop by the table in the Gathering Area.

2021 End of Year Contributions

The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2021) to claim a deduction for 2021. Giving in 2022 and predating a check for 2021 does not qualify for a 2021 deduction.

Old Town Soup Kitchen

The Mission Committee would like to know if there is an interest in volunteering at the Old Town Soup Kitchen in 2022. Old Town Christian Outreach is a wonderful organization committed to helping those in need.

We would love to be able to get a group of people together to volunteer once or twice a month. If you think this is something you would like to try, put your name on the list. Let us know what day(s) would work better for you -- Monday / Wednesday / Friday from 11am-1pm. It is a lot of fun, a little hard work, great fellowship, and the spirit of helping others. The sign-up sheet is on a clipboard on the Mission table.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2022

At the beginning of each year our Per Capita Apportionment for ecclesiastical expenses comes due. Per Capita is part of being a Presbyterian and connecting to the Presbyterian Church as a whole; it is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. The total 2022 per capita amount is \$8,381.00 for our church or \$29.00 per member (not per household). It goes to General Assembly, Synod of the Covenant, and the Presbytery. If each member pays their Per Capita amount above their regular giving, then pressure on our budget is reduced. Please mark Per Capita on your check or envelope.

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 Worship New Time

Beginning on January 16, 2022, our Sunday worship will start at 9:00am. This is to help share a Music Director (Mr. Collin Whitfield) with First Presbyterian Church who have also moved their worship service to 11:00am.