

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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 *Veni Emmanuel* Rogers

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

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 our Savior and we wait
for Jesus to come again.**

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

Hear God's promise of hope... God is faithful to his promises.

**Thanks be to God! We praise God for the hope that we have
in Jesus.**

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

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*The Hymn of Praise *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* 462

*The Call to Confession

We are children of light. We are not of the night or of darkness. Jesus said, "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." Let us come before God's throne of grace, confessing our sins to God.

*The Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, you have offered us salvation and yet so often we take it for granted, overlooking your sacrifice of love. Forgive us. You offer us hope and yet so often we forget this, wallowing in despair, hopelessness, and darkness. Forgive us. Help us to live as your children and to walk in your light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. Brothers and Sisters, our sins 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 Passing of the Peace

The Anthem *Waiting for a King* Martin

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The First Gospel Reading Luke 1:5-25 page 77 NT

The Second Gospel Reading John 1:1-9 page 123 NT

The Sermon 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.

With joy we praise you, gracious God...

...to proclaim the glory of your name:

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.

You are holy, O God of majesty...

...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:

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 Praise and Prayer

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* – Praetorius arr. Wagner

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

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

(continued on insert)

Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 3, 2023



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Hope

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

*The Hymn	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	31
*The Charge and Benediction		
*The Congregational Response	<i>Away in a Manger (verse 3)</i>	24
	<i>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.</i>	
*Postlude	<i>Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus</i>	Pritchard

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist and Advent Wreath Lighter: Alan & Linda Poplewski
Ushers: Pete & Ginny Brucker
Greeters: Meredith Main
Fellowship Hour: Rousseau Family
Musical Talents: Laurel Taipale and The Chancel Choir
Communion Servers: Pete & Ginny Brucker and Wally & Anne Schmidt.

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 Today, December 3.** 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 10 .**

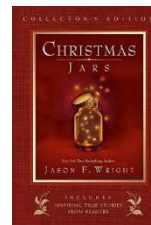


The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called a Special Congregational meeting for the purpose of Electing the new Elders and approving the Terms of Call for Pastor Ruth. The meeting will be Sunday December 17, 2023 immediately following worship.

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.



**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. **As a reminder, 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.