

Sunday Morning Worship

December 31, 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

Our Approach to God

Prelude *The Snow Lay on the Ground* Jordan

The Call to Worship Psalm 148 page 693 OT

The liturgist will read the odd verses.

The congregation is invited to read the even verses.

*The Hymn of Praise *O Come All Ye Faithful* 41

*The Call to Confession

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us so that we might become children of God.

Knowing this to be true, let us confess our sin to God.

*The Prayer of Confession

Compassionate God, as another year ends, we ask for your forgiveness. Forgive us for putting off those things that you desired for us to do or say. Forgive us for the times we only thought of ourselves and neglected to think of others. Forgive us for hoarding your generous gifts. Forgive us for failing to trust you and love you as we should. [Silent confession.] Lord, have mercy on us. Help us to faithfully walk in your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. To all who receive Christ, to those who believe in his name, God has given the right to become children of God. Jesus is our salvation and hope. **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 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Traditional French Carol

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading Luke 2:21-40 page 80 NT

The New Testament Reading Galatians 4:4-7 page 254 NT

The Sermon Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

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

*The Hymn *Once in Royal David's City* 49

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 *Born Is He, the Divine Christ Child* Harris

*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 *God of Our Life* 275

*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 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* Innes

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist : Peggy Donaldson

Ushers: Pete & Ginny Brucker

Greeter:

Fellowship Hour Host: Genie Herter

Musical Talent: Laurel Taipale

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.

**The office will be open Tuesday, January 2 – Thursday, January 4
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 , January 1.**

Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 31, 2023



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

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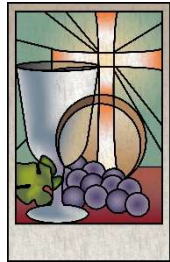
Announcements and Upcoming Event



Rescue Mission Lunches

Saturday, **January 6**, please join us in the church kitchen to assemble bag lunches for the Saginaw Rescue Mission. We will meet at 9:30 A.M. in the church kitchen (Please enter from parking lot through Fellowship Hall door)

Communion



Sunday, January 7, communion will be celebrated during the worship service. We hold an open communion at Second Presbyterian Church which means all believing Christians are welcome to participate. We also invite you to bring non-perishable food items for **The Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church**. We do so knowing that it is our privilege to feed the hungry and care for the poor as we are fed and sustained by the grace of God.

Taking Down the Greens

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, January 7, and help us take down the greens. After worship we will "un-deck" the halls. The more people we have helping, the quicker we will finish. Lunch will be provided.



Offering Envelopes

If you requested a box of offering envelopes on your Estimate of Giving card, the envelopes are available on the table in the vestibule. If you didn't request a box of envelopes and would like one, please complete the *Offering Envelope Request Form* on the table and drop the request in the basket.

***** Reminder: The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will be Sunday, February 4.*****

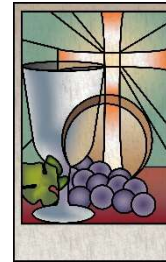
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The Call to Worship: Psalm 148
Good News Translation
(Liturgist reads odd numbered verses)
(Congregation reads even numbered verses)

1 Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from heaven,
you that live in the heights above.
2 **Praise him, all his angels,
all his heavenly armies.**
3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, shining stars.
4 **Praise him, highest heavens,
and the waters above the sky.**^[a]
5 Let them all praise the name of the LORD!
He commanded, and they were created;
6 **by his command they were fixed in their places forever,
and they cannot disobey.**^[b]
7 Praise the LORD from the earth,
sea monsters and all ocean depths;
8 **lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
strong winds that obey his command.**
9 Praise him, hills and mountains,
fruit trees and forests;
10 **all animals, tame and wild,
reptiles and birds.**
11 Praise him, kings and all peoples,
princes and all other rulers;
12 **young women and young men,
old people and children too.**
13 Let them all praise the name of the LORD!
His name is greater than all others;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
14 **He made his nation strong,
so that all his people praise him—
the people of Israel, so dear to him.**
Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit.
Help us to know the hope to which you have called us,
the riches of the glorious inheritance among the saints,
and the immeasurable greatness of your power at work in us.
Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Luke 2:21-40 NIV

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.
²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”^[b]
²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:
²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.
³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”
³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”
³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her

marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[a] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Galatians 4:4-7

New International Version

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.^[a] ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*,^[b] Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.