

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Christ in Glory, Russian painter, 15th century

510 W. Ottawa Street • Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 482-0668 / www.lansingfirstpres.com
Facebook – Lansing First Presbyterian
Summer Church Office Hours (M-Th) 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR OUR LORD'S DAY

DEC. 1, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SERGEI KVIKTO

CALL TO WORSHIP

ERIN SCHOR

The days are coming; your salvation is nearing.

**Teach us your paths
as we wait on your coming promise.**

The heavens are speaking;
your kingdom is arriving.

**Strengthen our hearts
as we wait on your coming promise.**

The world is turning; new life is appearing.

**Keep us alert
as we wait on your coming promise.**

We worship you with waiting hearts this day.

Fill us with hope in this season. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - WEEK ONE - HOPE

BOB MELLOR & ROGER ROCHOWIAK

Reader 1: The people of God waited and hoped for a long time for Jesus. In Psalm 40, we are reminded of God's presence as we wait.

Reader 2: "I waited and hoped for God, who bent toward me and heard my cry. God lifted me from the noisy pit, out of the muddy mire. God set my feet on a firm rock and gave me a new song. Many will see with awe and put their trust in God."

**ALL: God of Hope, thank you for listening and being present with us
as we wait for Jesus. Amen.**

Reader 1: We light the candle of Hope to show us the way.

ALL: And to remind us that God is with us today.

++indicates to stand in body or spirit.

LIGHT ONE PURPLE CANDLE

++ **HYMN #352[GTG]** My Lord! What a Morning

This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29-30 / Mark 13:24-26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

ERIN SCHOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Coming Christ,
you may not find us as you hoped.
We've looked away from signs
we do not wish to see.
We've stopped listening to distress
we do not wish to hear.
We are numb to inconvenient truths.
Keep us alert, O God,
to the needs of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts
laden with compassion fatigue.
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.
Show us the signs of your coming,
that we may stand before you,
the Son of Man,
in whose name we pray.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ERIN SCHOR

As sure as the fig tree blossoms,
so sure is the salvation of God,
poured out for the world
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Believe the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

++ RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #447 [GTG] WE ARE FORGIVEN

447 We Are Forgiveness

Musical score for 'We Are Forgiveness' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.' The chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8

++ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

#752 [GTG] *Dona nobis pacem*

ERIN SCHOR

Dona nobis pacem 752

Sim shalom

Rabbi habna salamann tamman

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (D) F (A) C

Latin Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.
 Hebrew Sim sha - lom, sim sha - lom, sim sha - lom.
 Arabic Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann tam - man.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

(G) B⁹ (D) F (A) C (D) F

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.
 Sim sha - lom a - lei - nu.
 Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

MS. MEGAN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ERIN SCHOR

God of hope,
 who never lets us go,
 draw near to us
 in these ancient words.
 By your Holy Spirit
 may we be filled,
 lifted up,
 and leveled
 as you prepare in our hearts
 the path of your coming. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

ERIN SCHOR

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that

time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz CHANCEL CHOIR

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who love us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is
to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints
below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon.
For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!*

LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

⁶But Timothy has just now come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love. He has told us also that you always remember us kindly and long to see us—just as we long to see you. ⁷For this reason, brothers and sisters, during all our distress and persecution we have been encouraged about you through your faith. ⁸For we now live, if you continue to stand firm in the Lord. ⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36 THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

SERMON

“Look Up and Raise Your Heads”

THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

++ HYMN #92 [GTG] Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

THE SACRAMENT OF OUR LORD’S SUPPER (all bread served is gluten free)

THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Sanctus (sung in unison) **#600[GTG]** Amen

Holy, Holy, Holy

552

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

... Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:
The Mystery of Faith (unison)
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Invocation of Holy Spirit THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Lord's Prayer (**unison**)
**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 debts, as we
forgive our debtors; 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 THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Unison Prayer after Communion

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC “Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates” by David von Kampen
CHANCEL CHOIR

*Lift up your heads, O gates!
 And be lifted up, O ancient doors, and be lifted up, O ancient doors,
 That the King of glory may come in.
 Alleluia!*

Offering THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK
 All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God.
 Let us then give back a portion of that goodness
 to God’s work in the world.

++Doxology #608 [GTG]

Praise God, from Whom 608
 All Blessings Flow

The musical notation is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, C, Am7, Dsus, D, G, D, Am7, Dsus, D, Am7, D, G, Am7, G, C, Am7, G, Am7, D, G. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple here be-low; praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore."

HYMN #82 [GTG] Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterized the Advent season (from the Latin adventus = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

BENEDICTION

THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK

Blest Be the Tie That Binds **#306 [GTG]**
***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

POSTLUDE

SERGEI KVITKO

*PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE USE CAMERAS TO BROADCAST VIDEO OF OUR CHURCH SERVICES. LICENSED MUSIC STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE, LICENSE #A-731144. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED."

INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

LITURGIST:	ERIN SCHOR
PRELUDE/POSTLUDE:	SERGEI KVITKO
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	MEGAN HIGLE
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH LIFE / COMMUNITY OUTREACH:	PRINCE SOLACE
PASTOR:	THE REV. CHARLES HERRICK
ADVENT READERS:	BOB MELLOR, ROGER ROCHOWIAK

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNS are available.

FLOWERS TODAY ARE IN HONOR OF THE 54TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BEVERLY AND CHARLIE PHILLIPS

FLOWER CHART There are many dates available on the chart to celebrate special days in our church family. The price is \$50. Simply sign up on the chart (in the office hall), indicate the occasion that you would like celebrated or honored (birthday, anniversary

or memorial), write a check to the church and give it to Betsy, and we will order for you. If you would like to purchase or provide a silk arrangement, please see Judy Whitman. Thank you! ~ Worship Committee.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR MISSION! PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO GIVE SECURELY ONLINE. *Take a picture with your phone and it will take you to the website to make a donation*



This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 1

10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Sunday service – Sanctuary
Adult Forum – Litten Hall
Children’s Faith Formation
Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel
Christmas Jazz Paul Kellar Ensemble - Sanctuary

Monday, December 2

9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

GIL classes
Church staff meeting – Library
Bell Choir rehearsal
Yoga – Yoga room
Membership Committee

Tuesday, December 3

9:00 a.m. -2
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

GIL Classes
We The People-MI – Litten Hall
Adult Forum Committee
Boom Group - library
Capital City Chordsmen rehearsal – Chapel
Book Group – Library

Wednesday, December 4

8:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.-2
12:00 P.M.
4:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.

NWI kitchen prep
GIL Class
Bible study – Library
NWI kitchen prep
Lansing Children’s Choir
Mid MI Photo Club – Litten Hall
Mission Committee
Youth Education Committee – Library
Yoga – Yoga room

Thursday, December 5

9:00 a.m.-2
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

GIL classes
Choir rehearsal – Choir room
Victory in Jesus Ministries – Library

Friday, December 6

10:00 a.m.
5:30 p.m.

GIL classes
Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, December 7

Sunday, December 8

10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.

Sunday service Choral Christmas – Sanctuary
Adult Forum – Litten Hall
Children’s Faith Formation
Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – Sanctuary
Lansing Symphony Orchestra - Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Holiday Baskets: The Deacons gave 100 baskets to needy families for Thanksgiving and will give 100 for Christmas. Recipients sign up when they visit the food pantry. Each basket costs \$50. Please help us with your contributions. Checks can be written to the church with Holiday Baskets on the memo line. Thank you!

Colors of the Church Calendar Year

The colors we use in our Sanctuary mark different seasons in church life. We celebrate Christ the King Sunday today, with white and all of our colors to celebrate Jesus' victory over all evil in the world. Our colors – purple or blue for Advent, White for High Holy Days, Green for Common or Growing season, Purple for Lent, and Red for Pentecost are all represented today in our Worship space.

Next Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent, the beginning of the church year, with purple or blue (for Mary), paraments. High Holy Days, like Christmas through Epiphany, the Easter season (48 days), All Saints Day and Christ the King are traditionally celebrated with white paraments. Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday is purple for the purple robe that Pilate insisted Jesus wear on his way to the cross. We use black on Good Friday for Jesus's death and then we take all color out of the Sanctuary to remember the utter desolation of Jesus's sacrifice. Pentecost is our only red day, for the fire of the Holy Spirit. The rest of the church year is celebrated with green – known as Common Time, but we prefer to think of it as Growing Time!

FPC MEN'S GROUP will have a "get-together" on Monday, December 9 starting at 5:30 PM at the home of Jim Donaldson (118 Green Meadows Dr., Lansing 48917). A light meal will be provided. Please bring your beverage of choice and a snack to share or something to pass. Donations will be accepted to cover meal expenses. Men of all ages are invited to come! Please RSVP to Brian Koon (b.koon@comcast.net) or Jim (jimdonaldson01@comcast.net).

It's Holiday Basket Time Again? The Deacons gave 100 baskets to needy families for Thanksgiving and will give 100 for Christmas. Each basket costs \$50. Please help us with your financial contributions. Checks can be written to the church with Holiday Baskets on the memo line. Thank you!

ADULT FORUM

(11:15-12:15 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom).
(Childcare is available through this time.)

December 1 Advent Symbols and Carol Sing

December 8

Supporting the unsheltered (homeless)

Guest Speaker: Julia Miller – Cofounder of **Punks with Lunch** and creator of the State of Michigan sponsored harm reduction hub offering a variety of services including: Narcan and Narcan Training, Needle Exchange, Safer Use Kits, resources for Recovery Services. Background of the “Punks with Lunch of Greater Lansing.” What they do, how others have been able to help and support, the how’s and why we conduct / combine harm reduction, food distribution, provide support or resource navigation, Narcan training.

