



*Worshipping, serving, and living with a fresh vision of
God's vibrant energy and grace for all.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024 // 10am

CENTERING WORDS:

The Advent mystery is the beginning of the end of all in us that is not yet Christ.
~ Thomas Merton 1915-1968

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Dialogue on A Noel

R. Warner

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING

One: The God of life be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

GATHERING SONG

#89 *For You O Lord,*
My Soul in Stillness Waits (refrain)

Janet Morrow

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Linda Clark

One: The spirit of God has prepared us
by baptizing us with the Holy Spirit,

All: **So we will continue to bring the gospel.**

One: We have been anointed to share the good news,

All: **To proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
and to comfort all who mourn.**

One: For God loves justice.
So we will prepare the way of the Lord.

All: **We will witness to the light!**

OPENING PRAYER

One: The wreaths have been hung and holly strung.

All: Everlasting God, help us remember that this is a season of waiting, a season of preparation.

One: Give us strength to look to you during these days—
not to be consumed by paper and tinsel

**All: but to remember to stand, lift up our heads,
and remember where our hope comes from.**

One: Help us to continue the journey of Advent
by living into the plan set forth in our baptisms,

**All: and help us prepare to welcome those
who are still waiting to hear your words. Amen.**

*HYMN #93 *Lift Up Your Heads*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Paul Van Kempen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, how can we think of rejoicing, when we face our world,
and who we are?

Called to gentleness,

All: we can be angry and hurtful people.

One: Called to generosity,

All: we tighten our grip on our clothes, our food, our love.

One: Called to fairness,

All: we can easily reject those who are different from us.

One: Yet, you are our salvation and you forgive us.

Renewed in your love,

All: we can be more loving;

One: restored to new life,

All: we can give ourselves away to others;

One: as you rejoice over us with gladness,

**All: may we share the joy of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior, with everyone we meet. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

He Came Down

All: **He came down that we may have hope*** (x3)
Hallelujah, forever more.

***peace, joy**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Sarah, Nate & Charles Sall

One: Today we light three candles,
remembering that God invites us all.

All: **We respond and will continue to prepare
our hearts, minds, and souls in this holy season of Advent.**

One: As we prepare our worship and living spaces
for the coming of Jesus this Christmas,

All: **May we share in God's generosity
and invite all people to share in God's love.**

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps

Andre Thomas

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20

Luke 3: 7 - 18

One: The Word of God for the people of God;

All: **thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

*HYMN #347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

LIFE AT FIRST

Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you. If you have a prayer request that you would like shared in worship, please fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Oh, How Joyfully

Jauanna Jackson

***ADVENT DOXOLOGY** (Printed in the bulletin)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: God, we bring you our gifts. May they be used to make a difference in the lives of people for whom hope is scarce. To those who receive them, may our gifts be a reminder of your love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Holy One, as we prepare for the advent of Christ,

All: give us your spirit of wisdom.

One: As we seek to embody your love in the world,

All: give us your spirit of good counsel.

One: As we seek to be faithful,

All: give us eyes to see beyond the obvious.

One: As we gather in this hour, we lift all in need before you.

**All: May we be instruments of your peace on earth
as we accept the gifts of your Spirit.**

One: Make us one body as we join our hearts in prayer,
speaking to you as Jesus us taught us to do...

Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator," "Our Mother," or "Our Parent."

**All: 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.**

***HYMN**

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old (Printed in the bulletin)

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG** #89 *For You O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* (refrain)

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Linda Clark,
Beth Magennis, FPC Choir, Rose Gifford, Marcia Huizenga, Janet Morrow
Thanks to: Sound and Video Tim Richardson, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,
M&M Café Providers, Kiki Leman and Nursery Care Providers

Advent Doxology



Praise God, praise God whose i-mage we all bear Praise
Christ, whose mer - cy we all share Praise Spi - rit, mak-ing
jus - tice grow One God from whom all bless - ings
flow. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The second staff starts with a measure rest of 4 measures. The third staff starts with a measure rest of 8 measures. The fourth staff starts with a measure rest of 12 measures. The fifth staff starts with a measure rest of 16 measures and includes a time signature change to 4/4 at the beginning of the staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

Joy F. Patterson



I - sa - iah the proph - et has writ - ten of old how
The moun-tains and hills shall break forth in - to song, the
Yet na - tions still prey on the meek of the world, and
God, bring to fru - i - tion your will for the earth, that

3



God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the thorn tree, the
peo - ples be led forth in peace; The earth shall be filled with the
con - flict turns par - ent from child. Your peo - ple de - spoil all the
no one shall hurt or de - stroy, That wis - dom and just - ice shall

6



fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the
knowl - edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the
sweet - ness of earth; the brier and the thorn tree grow
reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in

8



lamb, the lamb, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
sea, the sea, as the wa - ters cov - er the sea.
wild, grow wild, the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.
joy, in joy, your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

For You, O Lord, My Soul

in Stillness Waits

My Soul in Stillness Waits

89



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



- 1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
- 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
- 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;
- 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;
- 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,

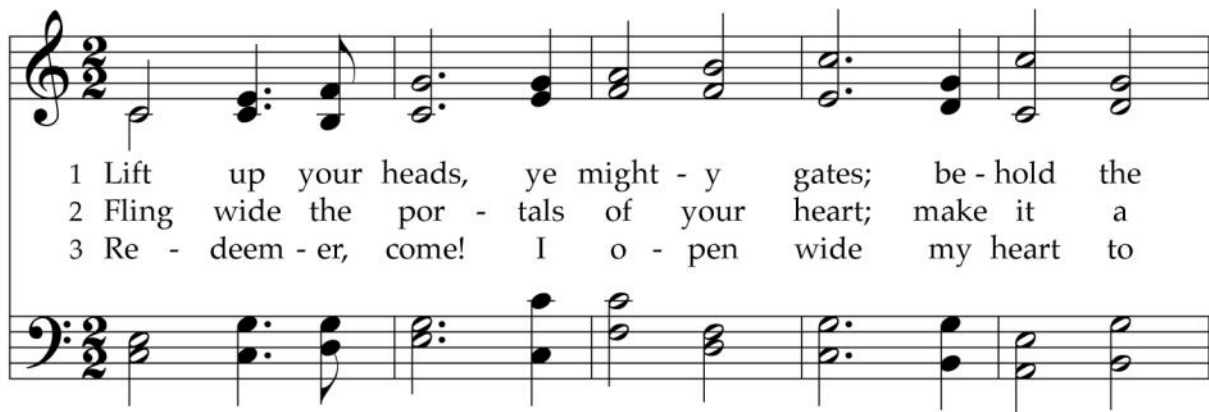


your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us
and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -
we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to
let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are
Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the

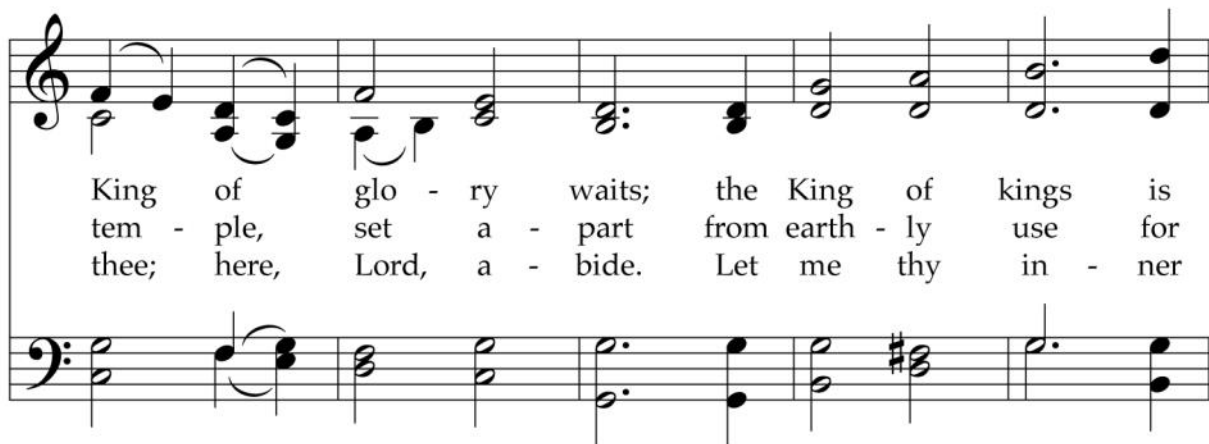


hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.
whole, be com - fort to our hearts.
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
us the path - way of your peace.
all the peo - ple of God's hand.
stars, and pres - ent to us now.

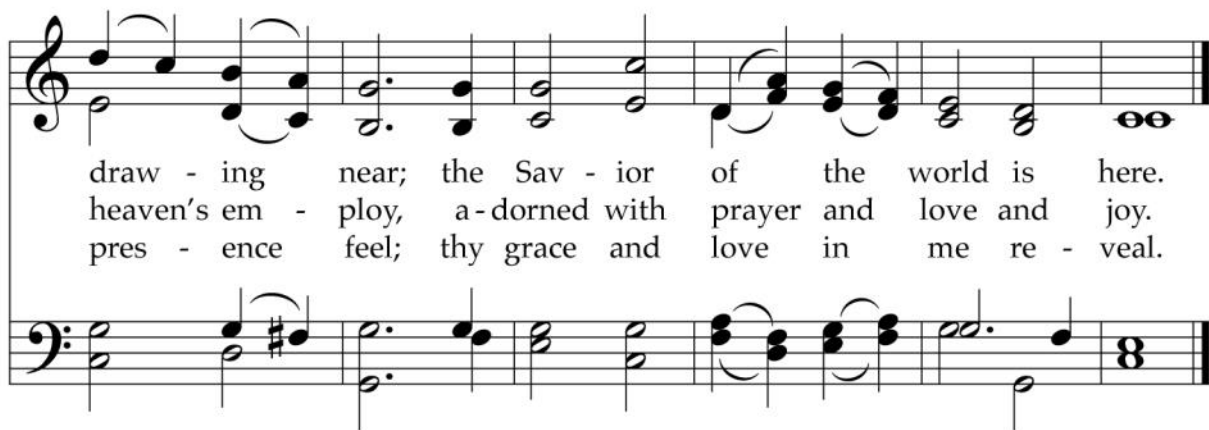
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



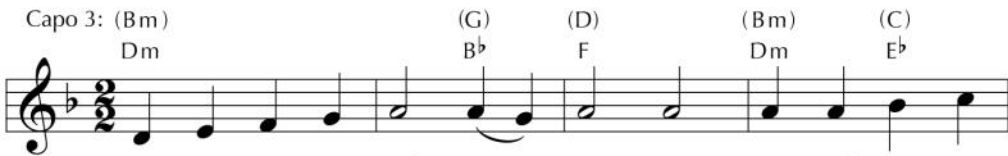
King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



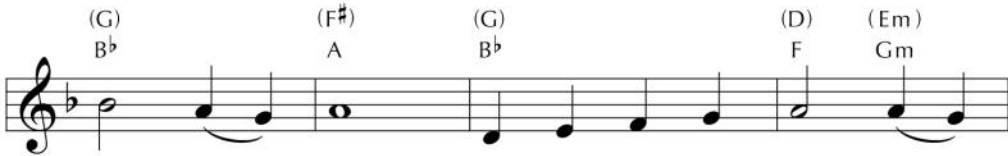
draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 347

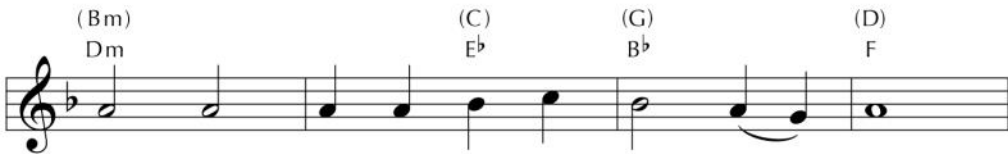
Capo 3: (Bm)



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with



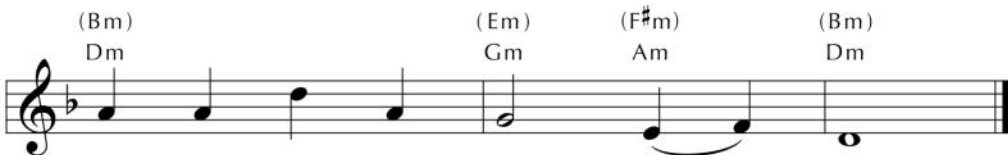
trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of light de -
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may van - ish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the shad - ows clear a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

EVENTS

Christmas Caroling // TODAY we will meet at 2pm and take the bus to visit and carol for several homebound church members. All ages are welcome!

Service of Longest Night // Thursday, December 19 at 7pm. The Christmas season brings joy and sorrow, hope and stress. Please join us for this time of worship as we acknowledge the realities of our lives. Whether you are missing a loved one or just overwhelmed by the Christmas rush, we invite you to be with us for a time of honesty and hope.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nestlings Diaper Bank // Help fill the manger with diapers for Nestlings. The purpose of Nestlings, is to make a difference in the lives of local low income families by providing diapers and wipes at no cost to as many babies as possible through our partnerships with shelters, food pantries, local church programs, and other social service organizations. Nestlings does not distribute diapers or wipes directly individual families. For more information or how you can be involved, visit their website www.nestlings.org

Advent Book // Families with younger children through youth are welcome to have a copy of the book, *Faithful Families: for Advent & Christmas -100 ways to make the Season Sacred*, by Traci Smith. Books are located on a shelf in the Book Nook. One copy per family, please.

Stay Awhile Adult Education class // Join us in the Michigan Room at 11:15am to continue our discussion of *Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality*. Books are available for purchase on the table near the elevator. (\$12, or a Kindle version for \$10). Please note: Adult Education time will not meet December 29 and January 5, returning on January 12, 2025.

Advent Choir and Orchestra // There are a lot of opportunities to get involved in music at FPC during the holiday season. The choir would love to have your voice added this season. We rehearse every Sunday at 9am and a special rehearsal on **December 18** at 7pm. If you are an instrumentalist and would like to play with the FPC orchestra on December 22, please reach out to Pastor Paul and he will get you the music! Rehearsals for the orchestra will be December 18 at 7pm and before church on December 22.

Elf the Musical // Daphne, Nora and Helen Teutsch are performing in *Elf the Musical*, at Cornerstone University. **Dec. 18, 19 & 20** performance times at 7pm, **Dec. 21** performances at 1pm and 6pm. To buy tickets: stageGR.simpleTIX.com

Volunteers Needed // Out On The Lakeshore is looking for volunteers to package books and deliver to local schools, a project that takes a few hours on one day a month. These will all be at Bluestocking Bookshop (near the corner of Butternut and James on the north side) from 10am-12pm. Volunteers are needed January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 13. Please contact their office for more details, 616-994-8090. Thank you!

Zadran Home Dedication Gifts // We will be participating in providing dedication gifts for the Zadran family in coordination with the First Reformed Church of Zeeland. We will fill a laundry basket with gift cards, brand new cleaning supplies, and home items. (Think Clorox wipes, Swiffer dusters and any items that are helpful to setting up a new home.) There are two labeled collection baskets in the Outreach Kiosk. The date of the dedication ceremony has not been set, but we will share it when it is. Thank you!

Christmas Service Times

Join us in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

Sunday, December 22 - Children's Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

3pm - Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service (with communion)

5pm - Candlelight Communion Service

December office hours

The church office will be closed December 24-27.

New Years Eve the office will close at noon

and remain closed on New Years Day.

Normal office hours resume Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Thank you.

STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop
Paul Van Kempen

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DEACONS:

Class of 2025: Nancy Staal, Lauren Stouffer,
Paul Van Kolken.

Class of 2026: Tom Glover, Terri Schamper.

Class of 2027: Lloyd Helder, Michele Richardson,
Leah Wallar.

ELDERS:

Class of 2025: Gail Hering, Beth Magennis,
Jon Mc Fadyen, Danielle Peterson, Ben Rund-Scott

Class of 2026: Carleen Bauer, Bill Evenson,
Cassie Kregger, Bruce Rosensteel.

Class of 2027: Jen Laux Ludwig, Tom Salley,
Dave Zessin

Children's Programming During Worship:

Children of all ages are encouraged and welcome to be with us during worship. If you prefer an alternative:

- Nursery: Newborn - 3 years of age. Available for the whole service.
- Celebration Time - 4 years of age through 1st grade. Available after Children's Time.

Education Offerings After Worship:

Education hour is from 11:15a -12:00p. *All are welcome to participate!*

- Adult Class - Michigan Room
- Youth - Youth Room
- Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade
- Nursery - Newborn through 3 years

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

659 State St., Holland, Michigan 49423 / Office: (616) 392-9022 / Email: office@fpcholland.org



FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of the PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at MLP.org