



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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2024 // 10am

**ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE**

**RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

One: The God of life be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

**PRELUDE**

*I Saw Three Ships*

Annie Lou Howell

**GATHERING SONG #95**

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lois Rodgers

One: People of God, listen!  
A voice cries out in the wilderness.

**All: What does the voice say?**

One: People of God, look!  
The time has come to plan for the coming of God's kin-dom.

**All: When will the kin-dom come?**

One: The kin-dom of God is near at hand,  
and the glory of God shall be revealed.

**All: We will plan and prepare for the way of the Lord.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People***

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All:** Merciful God,  
how many John the Baptists,  
how many prophets of your light,  
have we ignored  
because they were not what we were looking for?  
How many times have we ignored voices  
crying in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord."  
How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief,  
and turned our backs on your messengers,  
because they did not speak the message  
we expected to hear?  
Help us hear anew,  
the cry of those who would lead us to Christ.  
Tune our ears to your heralds,  
that we might also testify to your light. Amen.

## KYRIE

Cantor:	Congregation (echo)	Translation
Kyrie eleison.	<b>Kyrie eleison.</b>	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christe eleison.	<b>Christe eleison.</b>	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Kyrie eleison.	<b>Kyrie eleison.</b>	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*GLORIA** #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Refrain)

## \*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 might have hope (x3)  
Hallelujah, forevermore.**

**He came down that we might have peace (x3)  
Hallelujah, forevermore.**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Melanie, Andrew, Marian,

Cameron and Matthew Reynolds

One: Today, we light two candles,  
remembering that God can begin anew.

**All: We respond and plan for the coming Christ,  
during this holy season of Advent.**

One: As we prepare our hearts and minds  
for the coming of Jesus, in the past, present and future,

**All: may we share in God's generosity  
and always plan for more siblings  
who might come to feast at the table.**

### ANTHEM

*Every Valley*

Patti Drennan

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Rev. Paul Van Kempen

### \*HYMN

#96 *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

## 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, you are invited to fill out a prayer card (found in the pew-backs) and put it in the offering plate. The ushers will deliver it to the pastors.*

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

arr. Wilbur Held

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

### **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #105 *People Look East*

## CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING SONG** #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

Immediately following worship this morning a congregational meeting will take place for the purpose of electing elders and deacons.

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**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Rev. Cathy Hoop, Lois Rodgers,  
Beth Magennis, FPC Choir, Karen Howells, Rose Gifford.

**Thanks to:** Sound and Video Tim Richardson, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,  
M&M Café Providers, KiKi Leman and Nursery Care Providers

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# Prepare the Way of the Lord

95

Capo 1: (D)

(G)

(D)

\* E<sup>b</sup>

A<sup>b</sup>

E<sup>b</sup>

(chords continue)



Pre-*pare* the way of the Lord. Pre-*pare* the way of the Lord,



and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.





# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

*Refrain*

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

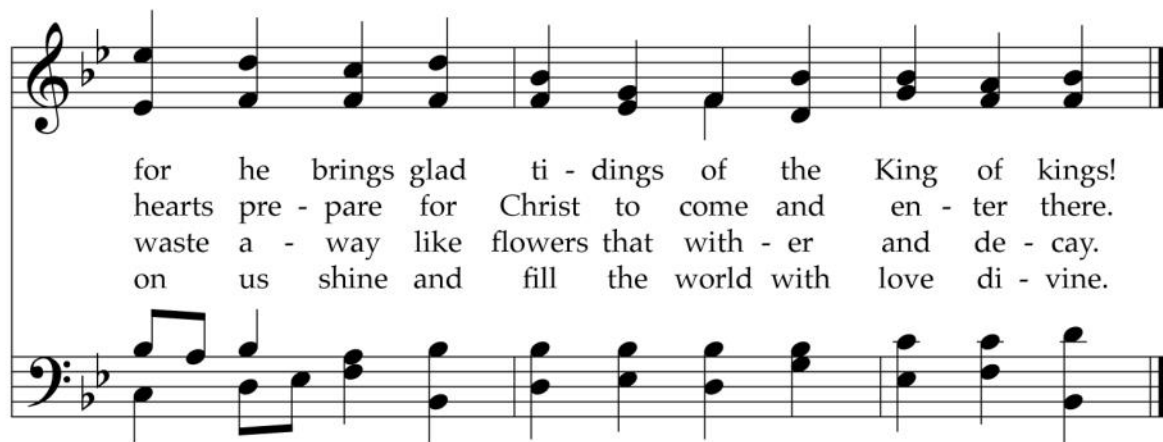
# 96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and



nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -



for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

# 92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;  
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.  
 with power and glo - ry, come.  
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

## People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more  
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



## People, Look East



a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



east and sing to - day:



Peo - ple, look east:

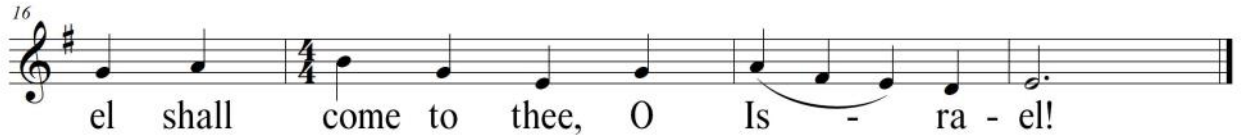
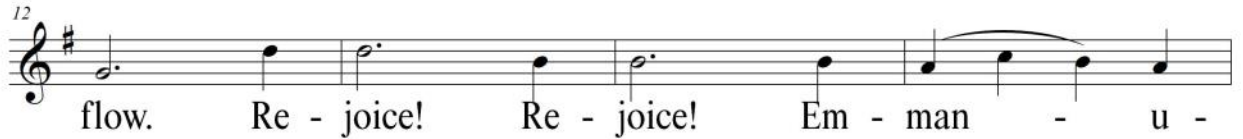
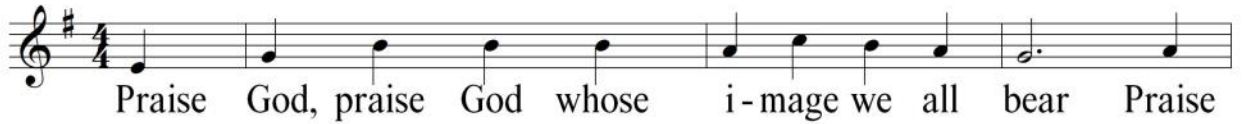
Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east:

(Love is on the way.)



# Advent Doxology



# STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop  
Paul Van Kempen

Lori Lepard  
Marlene Field  
Lori Klinesteker

Jane Oosterhouse  
Thom Samuelson  
Sue Stock

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff  
Associate Pastor and  
Director of Music  
Administrative Assistant  
Bookkeeper  
Clerk of Session &  
Children's Ministry Leader  
Custodian  
Maintenance  
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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**

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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](http://MLP.org)