



December 1, 2024
The Lord's Supper
1st Sunday in Advent

Prayer of Preparation

Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for you have kept us in life, sustained us, and brought us to this holy season. **Amen.**

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

In My Heart There Rings A Melody

Arr. Jerry Nelson

Welcome / Greetings

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

Manny Sharpe

*Call to Worship—from Isaiah 2

Manny Sharpe

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! People of God, let us worship the Lord. Amen.

Advent Reading & Lighting of the purple First Candle—HOPE

Narration:

Long before Jesus was born, a man named Abram, his wife Sarah and all their household left home to move to a new land because God made a promise. God promised to create a great nation from the family of Abram. In making an agreement with him, God changed Abram's name to *Abraham* (meaning "the father is exalted"). Abraham believed God's promise and did what God told him.

We Christians are part of the covenant community of faith that began with Abraham. We have God's promise that, through Jesus, we will share a life forever with him. Like Abraham, we take that promise seriously and act on it.

We know the Advent story ends with the birth of Jesus, but Abraham trusted God and lived with hope without knowing how everything was going to turn out. We live with that same Hope: trusting God when we are not sure how our lives are going to turn out. This first candle is called HOPE.

Please pray with me:

Lord Jesus, you are our hope – in good times, in bad times, and in those times we don't know how everything is going to turn out. As we look forward to the coming of your Kingdom, help us to be like Abraham, always trusting in your word. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn # 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
To us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's Tyranny;
From the depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Prayer of Confession

Pastor Bruce Mulder

O promised Christ:
We are a world at war.

Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people.

Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;

Our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness—from Psalm 85

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

Thanks be to God!

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33.14-16; Luke 21.25-36

Manny Sharpe

Jeremiah 33.14-16

The 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. In 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. In 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."

Luke 21.25-36

"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. People will faint from

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks ... 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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.*"

In the same way, after they had eaten, Jesus poured a cup saying, "*This cup is the new testament in my blood: do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*"

Sharing of the Gifts of Bread & Cup

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup when you are ready or raise your hand and you will be served where you are seated.

Communion Hymn 358

Steal Away

Communion Prayer—from Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all God's benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name! Amen.

To God we pray,

"Your kingdom come!"

Come bring your purpose near to make the force of evil fade, your goodness to appear as righteousness, a rolling stream to quench a thirsty land, the waiting season spent at last: your kingdom close at hand!

To God we pray,

"Your kingdom come!"

Come as a marriage feast in which the first and honored guests shall be the last and least; come lift the poorest of the poor up to your finest ranks, the hungry fed, the naked clothed, the downcast filled with thanks!

To God we pray,

"Your kingdom come!"

Come with your gift of growth; you scatter seed upon the ground, mix leaven in the loaf! What's sown in secret, soon reveal to claim your harvest's goal, till we attain your lasting aim: the leavening of the whole!

To God we pray,

"Your kingdom come!"

Come grant your unity. You seek and tend the wayward ones to form community, so that the lost may enter your good and holy place, and find their joy is centered in a heavenly embrace!

To God, we pray,

"Your kingdom come!"

Come claim creation wide; then shall the power of evil break, and sin no more divide. Your love shall launch a lasting reign as earth's old ills are healed; by mercy, justice, peace anew, in perfect joy revealed!

To God we 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 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."

We Follow God's Word into the World

Hymn of Sending # 83

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

**From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolidation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

Prelude On "Richmond"

Healey Willan



A Warm Welcome for our new Director of Music Peter Cartwright!
Peter Cartwright has been a music director for churches in the greater Detroit area for the past 32 years. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. in piano performance from Oakland University, Michigan. Peter has been a past president and program coordinator for the National Guild of Piano Teachers and is a member of the American Guild of Organists. He has performed and entertained extensively in classical, pop and jazz genres.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Manny Sharpe as today's liturgist. Next week's liturgist will be Richard Spurgeon. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Reminder to send in pledge form or letter of intent

If you haven't done so already, please mail in your pledge form or letter of intent to the office or drop them off in the collection basket when you attend the Sunday service. We are putting together our 2025 budget and need your pledge. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the programs and ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Town Hall December 8th!

Join us December 8th at 11am in Knox Hall for an informational session regarding important data.

Recycle Your Old Toothbrushes, etc.

Please start saving your old toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrush outer packaging and empty floss containers, any brand. Place them in the marked bin in the foyer. Colgate has started a program to recycle these hard-to-recycle items. Let's keep more items out of the landfill! Thanks for your care for planet Earth. Questions? See Sharon Cressman.

Don't Forget: Adopt-A-Teen for the Holidays

The Mission Ministry is hosting an Adopt-A-Teen gift buy for Christmas for 7 teens from families in Farmington Public Schools. On **November 17 and 24**, please select your gift choices from our "tree" in the Narthex. **All the gifts must be delivered to the church by TODAY, December 1.** Gifts may be wrapped, if you wish, and please attach the bulb tag to the gift.



First Presbyterian Mitten Tree

Cold weather is here, and the forecast says it will be an "arctic winter." Hats and mittens are going to be a must for school children. Therefore, it is time for Presbyterian Women's annual Hat and Mitten Tree collection!

From Sunday, November 24 through Sunday, December 8, we will be collecting hats, mittens, underwear, and socks for needy families right here in our own community. These items will be donated to Heartfelt Families of Farmington and Second Mile Center of Detroit.

Your new items should be placed on or below the tree in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 24. Please leave the price tags on the items. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have questions, feel free to contact Dale Hawkins at (248) 478-6283.



44th Annual Presbyterian Men's Communion & Advent Breakfast

December 14th The 44th Annual Presbyterian Men's Communion & Advent Breakfast will be hosted at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Township. The breakfast will include breakout sessions discussing communication and stewardship! FPCF Men will meet in the church parking lot to carpool and will leave by 7am. if or RSVP to Tom Neal (ttneal@sbcglobal.net)

Custodian Needed!

Your First Presbyterian Church of Farmington is actively seeking a part time custodian. The candidate should have a good background in building maintenance. The job is 20 hours per week. The pay for it position is \$20 per hour. Please refer any candidates to Bob Van Hamme [@mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com](mailto:mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com)

Join the new Hospitality Team

The Membership Committee encourages you to join our Hospitality Team. Help us welcome guests each Sunday. Pastor Bruce will be leading a Hospitality training session. If interested reach out to Collee Tavor (CMTCounseling@gmail.com) or Tom Neal (ttneal@sbcglobal.net)

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS FOR SECOND MILE CENTER

For more than a decade, PW has organized a Christmas outreach project for the children at Second Mile Center in Detroit. This is an opportunity for you as an individual or group to provide a Christmas gift bag for a child in need. The large bag includes an outfit, socks and underwear, a hat and gloves, a book, and a gift or toy from the child's list. The total value of the items is about \$100, so often a bag is put together by more than one person. If you would like someone to do the shopping for you, that can easily be arranged. (In lieu of providing a whole bag, gift cards (\$25 suggested) or cash donations are also appreciated to supplement the bags.) The children's wish lists come from Ruth Azar around Thanksgiving, and the bags are due on Dec. 8. If you would like to find out more or sign up, contact Sue Carlson at srdcarlson@me.com.

Stewardship 2025 – What does following Jesus mean to you?

As we move through our process of change and transition toward a permanent pastor, what better way to move forward than by "following Jesus?" Last year we committed to being a "sailboat church," depending on God's provision as the Holy Spirit guides us forward. May we all draw closer to Jesus as we explore what it truly means to follow him. Please feel free to share what "following Jesus" means to you on the Stewardship bulletin board in the foyer.

FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

Thank you for using your 2024 CARES shopping list each month to donate. Your neighbors, the guests at CARES, appreciate the availability of a variety of food from which to choose.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in 208/210**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list, please contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.



Christmas Gathering is Dec 11 at 10 A.M.

What happens when a city family, the Kings, gets hopelessly lost while cutting down a Christmas tree in the woods and is rescued by an extended back country family, the Shepherds? Find out by attending the Christmas comedy "Shepherds and Kings," by Karen Jones, presented by Presbyterian Players on

Wed. Dec. 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. There will also be Christmas music performed by our First Pres musicians, and light refreshments after the program. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the welcome table or by contacting Sue Carlson. Your hosts, Presbyterian Women, invite men and women, including guests, to join us.

Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

December 1: Last names beginning A-D

December 8: Last names beginning E-K

December 15: Last names beginning L-R

December 22: Last names beginning S-Z



QR Code for Donations!

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To make a donation, just scan the QR code and follow the prompts!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Transitional Senior Pastor

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer



2024 Christmas Poinsettias



Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, December 10

Please complete and return this form to the church office along with your payment. The cost for a red or white eight-inch double Poinsettia plant with gold foil cover is \$18.50 each. Poinsettias are available for you to take home after the Christmas Eve service. Contact Eddie Matteson or the church office to arrange to pick up your poinsettia at another time, have it delivered to your home or to donate it to one of our homebound members.

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark it for poinsettias or Christmas flowers. For last-minute orders, please contact the office at 248 474-6170 and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Please PRINT the following information so that it will be published accurately.

NAME: _____ PHONE No: (_____) _____

Number of red poinsettias: _____ Number of white poinsettias: _____

Amount due to First Presbyterian Church: \$ _____ Payment Enclosed: Yes ____ No ____

From:

In honor of:

In memory of:

