

DECEMBER 12, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

200 W. Grand River Ave. | East Lansing, MI 48823
517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. -
in the Sanctuary & Livestream
on YouTube

Nursery 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School will be held for
the entirety of service today

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

Our community meal
outreach program continues.
Individually prepared meals
can be picked up between
5:00—6:00 p.m. in the
Northwest entrance of the
building. For more details,
check out [The Peoples
Church Facebook page](#).

ASL Interpreted Service

The Peoples Church is proud
to welcome ASL interpreters
for our 10:30 a.m. worship
service and for special
events.

THE PEOPLES CHURCH STAFF

Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri., and Sunday mornings. Phones are monitored from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Reception Desk (517) 332.5073

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Dr. Jonathan Reed, Director of Music
Elizabeth Reed, Children's Music & Bell Choir Director
Judy Kabodian, Musician in Residence
Rev. Penny Swartz, Minister Emeritus

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Elders meet at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Robertson Room. Kari Naghtin, Chair (elders@thepeopleschurch.com)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, doubtful or hopeful...no matter where you are in your faith journey, **YOU** are welcome here.

For those with children, be assured that noises and wiggling are signs of a church that is alive and growing; your entire family is welcome in worship.

JOIN US REMOTELY!

To join the online
livestream of the
worship service, click
[here!](#)

To join the worship
service via telephone,
please dial
(844) 933-0517
and follow the prompts.

**MAKE A GIFT
ONLINE**

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Order of Service | December 12, 2021

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo
Judy Kabodian, Organist

Dietrich Buxtehude

Please take this opportunity to fill out the black attendance pad found at the end of your pew.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

***Call to Worship**

One We gather in preparation
for good news is about to be proclaimed.

**All We gather in expectation
for joy is about to appear in our midst.**

One We gather in celebration
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

**All We gather to be in God's presence,
hoping that the Spirit will move.**

One Let us worship the Lord with all we have!

All Let us worship the Lord and sing praises to God's name!

***Gathering Hymn**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (v. 1-3)

no. 119

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Text: Charles Wesley (1739)
Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1840)
Copyright: 2013
CL# 1698862

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: JOY

College Students

Prayer: **With great joy, we praise you, O God. You have kept your promises to your people and given us a Savior, Christ Jesus. When we find ourselves joyless and afraid, may the light of Christ fill our hearts. Forgive our errors and sins and create a new spirit within us as we prepare for the arrival of your son, Jesus. Amen.**

***Sung Response**

no. 96, v. 2

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

Sanctuary Choir directed by Dr. Jonathan Reed

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter long ago. Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain. Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed, the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ. Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day, a breast full of milk, and a mangerful of hay. Enough for Him, whom angels, fall down before, the ox and ass and camel, which adore. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wiseman, I would do my part, yet, what I can I give Him, give my heart. Give my heart.

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon

"Whistling in the Dark"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

***Hymn of Response**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (v. 1-3)

no. 129

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Text: German Carol
Music: Michael Praetorius (1609)
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Call to Giving

Offertory

****Act of Praise***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****Prayer of Dedication***

O Mighty One, you have done and are doing great things for us and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you this morning – our time, our money, our attention – and help us to use these resources to spread the word of your mercy and favor throughout the world. May our giving lead to healing and hope. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

****Sending Hymn***

Joy to the World (v. 1-3)

no. 134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Joy to the World
Text: Isaac Watts (1719)
Music: George Frederick Handel (1742)
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

****Benediction***

****Benediction Response***

Postlude

Trumpet Fanfare on "Adeste Fideles"

Sharon Elery Rogers

****Please stand as able***

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS AT THE PEOPLES CHURCH

PEOPLES FORUM: Peoples Forum will recess until January—see you in the new year!

CAMPUS MINISTRY: Today for Lunch and Lounge Campus Ministry will head to Barrio. Tonight at 6 p.m. we'll enjoy pancakes and some dedicated final exam study time in the Campus Lounge. We will recess until **January 12th**, when Campus Ministry will begin meeting Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and bible study.

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP: Today, **December 12th**, we will hold a combined Christmas party, which will run from 5:30-8:30 p.m! PCYG will recess until **January 9th**—enjoy your break!

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP: The Tuesday morning Men's group is reading *Everyone's a Theologian: An Introduction to Systematic Theology* by R.C. Sproul. We continue to meet at **7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Robertson Room.**

TOWN & GOWN: Town & Gown meets weekly on Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This series concludes on **December 14th**, with speaker Dr. Erica Frantz. Dr. Frantz, Department of Political Science of MSU, specializes in the study and teaching of authoritarian politics, democratization, conflict, and development. You are invited to join Professor Frantz in the Robertson Room or via Zoom.

SERMON PREVIEW GROUP: meets each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the meeting [here](#). Meeting ID: 883 8071 4830. You can also dial 1 929 205 6099 and when prompted enter 883 8071 4830. The passage for **December 15th** is Luke 1:46b-55.

WEDNESDAY NOON MEN'S GROUP: Our group meets weekly on Wednesdays at noon in the Robertson room. We are presently discussing the book *The Tyranny of Merit* by Michael Sandel. Our discussion leader is Sandy Bryson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARKING SPACES

The City of East Lansing has seven parking spaces available in Lot 8 (permit parking only), located North of the church on Albert Ave. Peoples Church is raising funds to reserve these spaces for our use. If you are interested in sponsoring these spots contact Zack Matthews at zmatthews@thepeopleschurch.com or 517-908-4444.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

GIFT CARDS FOR REFUGEE SERVICES

Today is the last day to donate gift cards to refugee services! Donations can be placed in the main office in the decorated box.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today is **our last day** of Sunday School before the pageant and holidays! We are going to have a great time creating Christmas ornaments, working on another outreach project, and playing a game or two! Be sure to watch our virtual Christmas pageant next week during the **December 19th** service. Our cast did a fabulous job! The pageant will be presented in the sanctuary and livestreamed on YouTube with closed captioning. Merry Christmas to you all! See you next year when we resume Sunday School on **January 9th!**

PORTAL DEADLINE

The deadline for the January Portal is **Wednesday, December 15th!** We are looking to add more member contributions; if you have ideas for submissions, such as jokes, art, poetry, or pet pictures - let us know. Email Elizabeth at eprice@thepeopleschurch.com with any feedback for future portals, or if you have something you'd like to submit!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Each year during the Holiday season, we decorate our sanctuary with Poinsettias. If you would like to take part in this tradition, please fill out the form on the back of this bulletin. Or, if you would prefer, you can visit [this link](#) (online version of bulletin only) to fill out an electronic version. The deadline to order a poinsettia is **December 17th**-don't delay!

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The Peoples Church will hold a service of hope and healing on **Sunday, December 19th at 4 p.m.** in the Chapel. This service will be held ***in person only***.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Peoples Church will be having our Christmas Eve Service on **Friday, December 24th at 7 p.m.** This service will be held online and in person.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

The photography for our new directory has been completed! Our photographer, Kathi Mitchell, has sent out a few emails that include links to your portraits. If you have not received an email, please check your spam folder or email Kathi at kathi@bluedenimphotography.com.





**MESSAGE FROM THE HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET
PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

We want to thank you for your generous support—because of you we were able to provide 30 families with a food credit for Thanksgiving! This arrangement provides the family the ability to determine what food best fits their needs during the holidays and only restricts alcohol, tobacco and cleaning products. With your continued support we can adopt the same 30 families for **Christmas**, and provide them with another a memorable holiday. We greatly appreciate your help in supporting our community, and pray we are soon able to resume in person food deliveries to these families!



Christmas Poinsettia Memorial Gifts

Please return forms to the church office no later than **December 17th, 2021!**

_____ **I would like to honor a loved one with a poinsettia this holiday season.** (a suggested donation of \$20 is appreciated. Please make checks payable to The Peoples Church and indicate "Poinsettias" in the memo line.)

Please accept my gift:

_____ **In Memory of**

_____ **In Honor of**

_____ **In Celebration of**

_____ **To the Glory of God**

Name: _____

Memorial Notes: _____
