

# Sanctuary Service, Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023



## THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

517.332.5073 | [ThePeoplesChurch.com](http://ThePeoplesChurch.com)

### SERVICE INFORMATION

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary & livestreamed on YouTube.

Sunday School takes place after the Children's Moment.

Professional nursery care is provided for children under 3.

A nursing room is available for those who need it. Ask an usher or the Welcome Desk for directions.

Please join us after the service in our front lobby for coffee hour and fellowship!

### LISTENING DEVICES

We now offer listening devices that amplify sound from stage microphones, which are available upon request.

### ASL INTERPRETED SERVICE

The Peoples Church is proud to welcome American Sign Language interpreters for our Sunday worship services

### SENSORY TOOL KIT

A Sensory Tool Kit is reserved for individuals who get over-stimulated during church services and need something to help calm the nervous system. The kit can be borrowed at the Welcome desk.

## 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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**Judy Kabodian, Musician in Residence**

**Elizabeth Reed, Children's Music & Bell Choir Director**

**Dr. Jonathan Reed, Director of Music**

**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. Diane Shafer, 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, you can find **The Peoples Church of East Lansing on YouTube!**

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@TPCEASTLANSING



THE PEOPLES CHURCH  
OF EAST LANSING

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE  
**HERE!**



# Order of Service | December 17, 2023

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

## **Prelude**

Angels From the Realms of Glory  
Clarion Ringers directed by Elizabeth Reed

arr. Linda Mckechnie

Acolytes:

Malcolm and Miles Calabrese

## **Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

One Our souls magnify the Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Phyllis Grummon

**All God has looked with favor on the lowly.  
God has raised up the downtrodden.**

One God's mercy is for those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

**All God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

One With one voice, let us sing praises to God!

**All As one body, let us celebrate the God who does new things!**

## **\*Gathering Hymn**

Once in Royal David's City (v. 1-4)

no. 140

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger  
for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless;  
tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness and he shares in all our  
gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and  
gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

Once in Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

Music: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919

Copyright: 2013

CLI#: 1698862

## ***Prayer of Confession***

God of joy, give ear to our confession. When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness, forgive us, O God. When we ignore the mighty things you have done, forgive us, O God. When we doubt your mercy, forgive us, O God. When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts, forgive us, O God. When our wealth causes others to go hungry, forgive us, O God. For all the ways we have doubted hope, thwarted peace, or stifled joy, forgive us, O God. In your mercy and love, make us whole. Amen.

## ***Moment of Silent Reflection***

## ***Assurance of Pardon***

### ***\*Confession Response***

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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!**

## ***Children's Moment***

Joy

*\*Parents, please pick up children in  
the Social Hall after the service.\**

## ***Anthem***

Mid-Winter

Bob Chilcott

Sanctuary Choir directed by Dr. Sandra Snow

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain: heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but only his mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

## ***First Scripture Reading***

Psalms 126

Phyllis Grummon

## ***Second Scripture Reading***

Luke 1:46-55

## ***Sermon***

"Do or Do Not"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

## **Hymn of Response**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God (v. 1-5)

no. 99

*My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise. God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.*

*My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name. All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.*

*From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts, dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.*

*Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure, leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.*

*Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.*

My Soul Gives Glory to My God  
Miriam Therese Winter (1979); rev. (1987)  
Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music (1813); harm. C. Winfred Douglas (1940)  
Copyright: 2013  
CLI#: 1698862

## **Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Haley Hansen

**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.**

## **Invitation to Give**

### **Offertory**

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow  
Clarion Ringers directed by Elizabeth Reed  
Ally Szeles, Clarinet

arr. Mary Kay Parrish



*To make a gift online, please scan this QR code.*

### **\*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**

**Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts we have received and for the gifts we get to share. Bless us so we might use all our gifts to be a blessing to others. And may we, like Mary, bring God's grace into the world. Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (v. 1-3)

no. 93

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.*

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Text: Georg Weissel (1642); trans. Catherine Winkworth (1855, 1863)

Music: Musica Sacra (1778)

Copyright: 2013

CL# #: 1698862

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

**Postlude**

Joy to the World  
Judy Kabodian, Organist

arr. Michael Burkhardt



**JOY TO THE WORLD**  
Please join us for our Christmas Eve services.  
DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 5 PM & 9 PM

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**8:30 SERVICES:** There are no 8:30 a.m. services during the month of December. We encourage all of our regular 8:30 service goers to join our 10:30 a.m. services during Advent and Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** Because Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday this year, there will be only one morning worship service at 10:30 a.m., and there will be **two evening services at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.** We hope you will join us in celebration, adoration, and worship this Christmas Eve.

**NEW ART EXHIBIT:** The Peoples Church Fine Arts Committee has installed its latest exhibit. “The World of the Play: A Creative Process” offers a glimpse of behind-the-scenes design and technology from past and present MSU Department of Theatre productions, and class work from faculty and students. It includes an assortment of pieces in both theoretical and practical formats, ranging from costumes and masks to scenic models and renderings, as well as faux scenic painting, lighting design, and stage properties. This exhibit will be on display until March 7, 2024. Pick up an exhibit catalog across from the Welcome Desk

**SNOWPANTS COLLECTION:** The annual Snowpants Collection is underway! Please donate new or gently used children’s snowpants, coats, hats and mittens/gloves. All are donated to the Love Clothing Closet at the Judson Baptist Church, where they work with families who’ve contacted Christian Services, to provide clothing, pajamas, shoes and boots, and winter gear. Look for the new box outside of the church office.

**PEOPLES CHURCH EUCHRE TOURNAMENT:** The Peoples Church second annual Euchre tournament will be **Friday, January 19, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.** Cost is \$10 per person, and space is limited to 32 participants. The signup list is in the church office!

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** On **Sunday, January 21, 2024, following the 10:30 a.m. service** there will be a special congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on the proposed Capital Campaign. If you are unable to attend the January 21 meeting, you may pick up a ‘Request for Absentee Ballot’ at the Welcome Desk, or one can be mailed or emailed to you upon request. Subscribers to the weekly E-Newsletters have the option to scroll down in those emails to the Capital Campaign announcement and print their own ballot request at their convenience.

## ***PROGRAMMING AT THE PEOPLES CHURCH***

**ACHE:** Adults Connecting & Having Events is a group for young adults that meets twice a month for activities and events. On **Sunday, December 31**, ACHE will celebrate NYE with an after church brunch at Beggar's Banquet. For more information about ACHE, contact Pastor Haley at [hhansen@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:hhansen@thepeopleschurch.com).

**CHICs:** 'Connected Hearts In Christ' (CHICs) is back! **Beginning Thursday, January 11**, CHICs will meet in the Robertson Room on the **second Thursday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, through May. CHICs is a women's group that meets for devotionals, discussion, and fellowship. To learn more about CHICs, please email Traci Dudley at [tracidudley@gmail.com](mailto:tracidudley@gmail.com), or Susan Godfrey at [s.godfrey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.godfrey@sbcglobal.net).

**COLLEGE MINISTRY:** Campus Ministry now meets **after the 10:30 a.m. service** for Lunch & Lounge, and **twice a month** for activities and outings. For more information, contact Pastor Haley by emailing [hhansen@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:hhansen@thepeopleschurch.com).

**ENGAGING THE WORD:** Pastor Shawnthea leads the in-person study group on **Mondays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Robertson Room**, and the **Wednesday Zoom session from 9 to 10 a.m.** The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068627263>. Pastor Haley leads a Bible Study at **9:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Robertson Room**. This week's passage is Luke 2:1-20.

**PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP:** Coppertones and Youth Choir are rehearsing this evening at **5:15 p.m. and 6 p.m.** The PCYG Christmas party is **tonight at 6:30 p.m.!** For more information about PCYG, contact Elisha, by emailing [esmith@thepeopleschurch.com](mailto:esmith@thepeopleschurch.com).

**PORCH OF HEAVEN:** Porch of Heaven is a Lectio Divina service that takes place **Mondays at 6:15 p.m. in the Telder Room**. It involves reading scripture, silence, mindfulness and sharing. Visit Porch of Heaven tomorrow evening, or email Tom Schaberg at [tschaberg1@gmail.com](mailto:tschaberg1@gmail.com) for more information.

**TAIZE:** Our December Taize service is **tonight at 6:30 p.m.** in the Chapel. Taize services consist of repetitive and meditative singing, prayer, scripture, and silence. It is a powerful, quiet, contemplative worship experience. These services are inter-denominational and all are welcome.

**TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP:** The Tuesday Morning Men's Group is currently reading the Christmas story as described in gospels Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Beginning in January, the group will be reading 'Meeting Jesus for the First Time,' by Marcus J. Borg. The Tuesday Men's group meets at **7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Robertson Room**.

**WEDNESDAYS @ PEOPLES CHURCH:** Join us **every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.** in Snider Social Hall for a community dinner! At **6 p.m.** Pastor Shawnthea teaches dance aerobics in the gym, and Pastor Haley leads a discussion on faith and the news at **6:30 p.m.** All are welcome!