

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

Sunday Schedule

Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.

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

Sunday School is held after the Children's moment.

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.

W@PC

Wednesdays @ Peoples Church will reconvene on January fourth. Happy Holidays!

ASL Interpreted Service

The Peoples Church is proud to welcome ASL interpreters for our Sunday worship service and for special events.

Sensory Tool Kit

A Sensory Tool Kit is reserved for individuals who get overstimulated 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.

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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. Bev Mason, 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, dial (844) 933-0517 and follow prompts.

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Order of Service | December 18, 2022

Prelude

Midnight Clear
Clarion Ringers, directed by Elizabeth Reed

arr. by Carl Wiltse

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: Here and now we have entered God's peaceful presence,
But our hearts and minds are in turmoil.

**All: There are so many things we have to do.
There are so many expectations we have to meet.**

One: We've hung the lights and baked the cookies.
We've sent the cards and sung the carols.

**All: The busyness of the season distracts us from our faith.
We long for a moment of peace and quiet.**

One: Be still and know that God is here.
Sit in silence and listen for the songs of angels.

**All: In the midst of darkness, we see a light!
Jesus is coming and our hearts rejoice!**

***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

CL#H: 1698862

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder, it is never easy for us to admit our mistakes or name our sins. There are hurts we have caused that we would like to forget. There are people we think are impossible to love, so we don't even try. There are others who live on the edge of our society that we pretend we do not see. Forgive us, Holy One. When we have lost our way, show us your path. In this season of love, help us to feel your love and gently lead us on the path of peace. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

***Confession Response** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (v. 3) no. 93
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.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Anthem

The Shepherd's Carol Arr. Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir, directed By Dr. Jonathan Reed

Carols so sweet, angels did sing. As lately we watched o'er our fields through the night, a star there was seen of such glorious light. All through the night, angels did sing carols so sweet of the birth of a King. All through the night, angels did sing carols so sweet of the birth of a King. His throne is a manger, his court is a loft. But hosts of bright angels in strains sweet and soft, him they proclaim, our Christ by name, and earth, sky and air straight are filled with his fame. Then shepherds be joyful, salute your new King. Let hills and vales ring to the song that ye sing. Blest be the hour, welcome the morn, for Christ our dear Savior on earth now is born. All through the night, angels did sing carols so sweet for the birth of a King. Carols so sweet, for the birth of a King.

First Scripture

Psalm 84:1-7

Second Scripture

1 John 4:7-12

Sermon

Of the Father's Love

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

Of the Father's Love Begotten (1, 3, 5, 6)

no. 108

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing. Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be. Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th Cent.
Music: Plainsong, Mode V; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

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

A Christmas Carillon
Clarion Ringers, directed by Elizabeth Reed

arr. by Margaret R Tucker



To make a gift online, please scan the 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

In response to your love, O God, we give this offering in support of the church. Use all our gifts to spread the Christmas message: God is love, and Love has come to us. We dedicate this offering in Christ's name. Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Joy to the World (v. 1-4)

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Postlude

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Judy Kabodian, organist

arr. Janet Linker

PROGRAMMING AT THE PEOPLES CHURCH

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP: After the service, please join us in Friendship Hall for freshly brewed coffee, sweet treats, and fellowship!

CAMPUS MINISTRY: Campus Ministry will resume on January 8th.

TAIZE SERVICE: This month's Taizé Service is tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Services consist of repetitive and meditative singing, prayer, Scripture, and silence. It is a powerful, quiet, contemplative worship experience. This service is inter-denominational and all are welcome.

ACHE: Adults Connecting and Having Events is a young adult group that meets on every first and third Thursday. To keep up with events, follow ache_thepeopleschurch on Instagram.

PUB THEOLOGY: Pub Theology meets on the second Thursday of the month at Crunchy's to engage in conversation about faith, life, and what is happening in the world.

ENGAGING THE WORD: Led by Pastor Shawnthea, this group meets in-person on Mondays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Robertson Room and Wednesdays on Zoom from 9 to 10 a.m. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81906921959>.

WEDNESDAYS @ PEOPLES CHURCH: Our weekly Wednesday night dinners are taking a break for the holidays. W@PC will reconvene on January 4th. Dance Aerobics will still gather on December 21st at 6:30!

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP: The Tuesday Morning Men's Group is currently reading *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* by Dallas Willard. We continue to meet at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Robertson Room.

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NOON DISCUSSION GROUP: Please join us in the Robertson Room for our discussion of John Pavlovitz's book "A Bigger Table".

CHICs (CONNECTED HEARTS IN CHRIST): In January, CHiCs (Connected Hearts in Christ) Women's Small Group will be starting a new book, *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Lately, many have become disillusioned with Christianity. This book demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share communion, read scripture together and tell each other the reality of their lives. This book is an account of their journey toward wholeness and will ring true for both believers and skeptics.

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, contact Beth Lundy at lundybb@comcast.net or (610)246-0029.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY: Held on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room, these informative presentations give a voice to various community members on a wide range of topics. Our January 8, 2023 speaker for Voices is Tom Bres, Chief Information Officer at Sparrow Health System.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: This week after the Children's Moment, Sunday School is having a Christmas party! All children are invited upstairs.

POINSETTIAS: Poinsettias can be picked up after the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Thank you to everyone who made a dedication!

MERIDIAN CONCERT BAND: The Meridian Concert Band will present their Holiday Concert on December 20th, 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. The concert is free, and selections will include traditional holiday tunes, carols, and more!

TELL-A-TAIL: The Library Committee is sponsoring a Tell-a-Tail program for children on the second Wednesday of every month, January – May from 6 – 7p.m. in the Church Library. Children will be able to practice reading aloud to Reba, a therapy dog. Reading aloud to a dog has been shown to improve reading proficiency. Children may bring their own book or select a book from the Library. Reading sessions will last about 10 minutes per child. Please plan to come January 11.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT: Join us for the 1st Annual Peoples Church Euchre Tournament! Friday, January 20th from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 per person and includes pizza, snacks and beverages. Points will be kept individually, so there is no need to find a partner. Sign-up by emailing office@thepeopleschurch.com. Space is limited to 32 experienced players.

NEW ART EXHIBIT: The Fine Arts Committee invites you to explore their latest exhibit, "Around the Corner and Around the World," a collection of watercolors by Chicago-based artist Laura Karsh Eaton. The exhibit includes 38 pieces from the artist's collection. They are displayed in the hall running along the west side of the Sanctuary, in the Kiosk and in the Thompsen case. The exhibit will be on display through February 9, 2023.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: You are invited to join The Peoples Church for our 6 and 9 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. There will not be 8:30 or 10:30 worship on Sunday, December 25th.