

DECEMBER 19, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PAGEANT SUNDAY



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

There is no Sunday School
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.

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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 19, 2021

Prelude

What Child is This?
Clarion Ringers directed by Elizabeth Reed

arr. Sharon E. Cheek

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 Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!
Let us proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

**All God's faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
God's love is as everlasting as the stars in the sky.**

One God has kept faith through every generation.
Happy are those who walk in God's light.

**All God continues to keep faith with us.
We will lift our voices in praise and sing of God's steadfast love!**

***Gathering Hymn**

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (v. 1-3)

no. 113

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels We Have Heard on High
Text: French Carol (1860)
Music: French Carol (1937)
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: LOVE Brad Williams, Kristen Caswell, & Piper Williams

Prayer: **Holy One, you are the source of all good things: Hope, Peace, Joy and especially Love. Help us to feel your love for us and help us to love others in turn. Forgive our errors and sins. May we always show love for all your children, whether they are family, friends, or strangers. We thank you for the gifts of this season, especially the gift of love. 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.**

Anthem

The Cradle

arr. J. Alban Hinton

Sanctuary Choir directed by Ben Clements

He smiles within his cradle, a babe with face so bright. It beams most like a mirror against a blaze of light: this babe so burning bright. This babe we now declare to you is Jesus Christ our Lord; He brings both peace and heartiness: Haste, haste with one accord to feast with Christ our Lord. And who would rock the cradle wherein this infant lies, must rock with easy motion and watch with humble eyes, like Mary pure and wise. O Jesus, dearest babe of all and dearest babe of mine, thy love is great, thy limbs are small. O, flood this heart of mine with overflow from thine!

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

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

Scripture

Luke 1:46b-55

Meditation

“Show, Don’t Tell”

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Children’s Pageant

“Mr. Pfister’s Christmas Time Travelers”

by Michael and Jill Gallina

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.**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Clarion Ringers directed by Elizabeth Reed

***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**

May these gifts, which we first received from you, remind us all of your generosity and grace, O God. Bless us with courage so we might tell all the world about your wondrous love and healing grace. We pray this in the name of your son, our savior, Jesus. Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Love Has Come (v. 1-3)

no. 110

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, A Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Love Has Come
Text: Ken Bible (1996)
Music: French Melody (2012)
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

***Benediction**

Postlude

Joy to the World

arr. Fred Bock

****Please stand as able***

Mr. Pfister's Time Travelers Cast:

Tick 1, Sheep: Melle Tassaro-Tans

Tick 2, Sheep: Alice Hunter

Tock 1, Wise Man: Miles Calabrese

Tock 2, Wise Man: Malcolm Calabrese

Rachel, Mary: Brooklyn Burke

Nathan, Shepherd: Henrik Hunter

Deborah, Angel: Madelyn Schuette

Matthew, Sheep: Declan Biedenbender

Pop, Shepherd: Izaak Biedenbender

Mr. Stanley, Wise Man: Sam Calabrese

Dr. Livingstone, Shepherd: Gabe Eysselinck

Malachi, Shepherd: Theo Eysselinck

Joseph: Abe Barton

Special thanks to:

Jen Hunter,

Audio/Visual Team: Ally Szeles and Chris Kaminski,

Kathi Mitchell and Elizabeth Reed.

Thank you for your work and dedication

in preparing this Christmas Pageant.

We appreciate you all!

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS AT THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

CAMPUS MINISTRY: Campus Ministry 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: PCYG will resume 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.**

SERMON PREVIEW GROUP: The sermon preview group will resume **Wednesday, January 5th, 2022.**

WEDNESDAY NOON MEN'S GROUP: We have completed our study of *The Tyranny of Merit*. We will recess until Wednesday, January 12th, when we begin our study of *If God is Love Don't be a Jerk*, by John Pavlovitz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The Peoples Church will hold a service of hope and healing this **evening, 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.

THANK YOU

To all the Elves—Thank you for providing holiday gifts for the children of Edgewood Village. This year we were able to provide gifts for 108 children from 47 families. Your generosity in shipping, wrapping, providing donations and delivery is deeply appreciated!

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.

REFUGEE SERVICES RESPONSE

Years ago I was talking with a most interesting man. When asked why he married his wife, he answered "Because she makes me a better man." That is how I feel about being part of the Peoples community. Recent response to the underwear drive and now the appeal for gift cards for Refugee Services support this. Many have said that they have been blessed and it is their joy to share. We at peoples are part of a community that has consistently and now again demonstrated overwhelming generosity. The spirit does move among us. Something happens here. Thank you all.

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 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!

I hope you all enjoyed our wonderful Christmas pageant today! Thank you to everyone who helped put it together, Ally and Chris, our wonderful A/V team, and Jen Hunter for helping with the ornaments.

We also couldn't do any pageant without our parents. Thank you for seeing the value in Christian Education for your children! We appreciate you helping your children rehearse, enduring earworms of pageant songs, and bringing your children to church for extra rehearsals and filming days.

Mrs. Reed and I thank you!

- *Kathi Mitchell, Children's Christian Education Director*

