

Sanctuary Service, December 31, 2023

“My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples...”

Luke 2:30-31



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

SERVICE INFORMATION

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

There is no Sunday School this morning.

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.

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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!



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MAKE A GIFT ONLINE
HERE!



Order of Service | December 31, 2023

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

Prelude

I Wonder as I Wander
Judy Kabodian, Organist

arr. Fred Bock

Welcome

Rev. Haley Hansen

***Call to Worship**

One As we welcome a new year, we give thanks for the past and anxiously wait to discover what is still to come.

All We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

One We join generations of Simeons and Annas who teach us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

All We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

One Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, and guides us from one year to the next.

All Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***Gathering 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.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, call us to repentance at the beginning of this new year. Forgive us for past unfaithfulness, silence in the face of injustice, and inaction amid suffering. Move us away from the desire to hoard our wealth toward faithful stewardship. Help us to share your gifts with those who cry out for daily bread. Renew our hope, strengthen our resolve, and grant us faith as we move into this new year. We pray in Jesus' name. 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

First Scripture Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

"Waiting for Jesus"

Rev. Haley Hansen

Hymn of Response

In the Bulb There is a Flower (v. 1-3)

no. 250

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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



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**

Generous God, use our gifts for the work of justice, mercy, and compassion—as would befit the Savior who sleeps in a manger. It's in His holy name, we pray. Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem (v. 1-4)

no. 159

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there, and of the news that came to them from angels in the air. The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today. Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy; O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless boy. For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow. Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill, of him who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still. For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll, when faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay, of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away. For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave, and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem
Text: Louis FitzGerald Benson (1899)
Music: English County Songs (1893); harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams
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***Benediction**

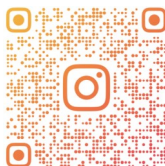
Postlude

Joy to the World
Judy Kabodian, Organist

arr. Fred Bock



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

CHURCH TOUR: The next Peoples Church ‘Talk ‘n Tour’ will take place on **Sunday, January 7 after the 10:30 a.m. service.** If you are interested in learning more about the history of The Peoples Church, please meet at the front of the sanctuary following the service.

REALM CONNECT APP: The free Realm Connect App for phones and mobile devices, found on both the  Google Play store and the iPhone App Store, is an easy way to stay connected with The Peoples Church. The online directory, the calendar of events, and the records of your giving are all easily accessible through Realm. If you have any questions about connecting to The Peoples Church on Realm, please contact Beth Lundy by emailing Blundy@thepeopleschurch.com, or by calling the church office.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS:

Bountiful blessings and so much gratitude to our phenomenal volunteers who faithfully serve at the Southside Kitchen every third Tuesday of the month. Galilee Baptist Church appreciates you, and so do I.
-Janet Perron

I would like to extend a deep and heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the Edgewood Village Gift project this year. Your participation allowed The Peoples Church to provide 134 kids with a gift. These kids represented 57 families who live at Edgewood Village. It gives me such joy to coordinate this Christmas outreach activity each year. I loved hearing the stories from members who purchased gifts and shared pictures of what they purchased. Thank you again to all the shoppers, financial supporters, delivery team. We make a great team!!

-Emily Anderson

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. ACHE will celebrate NYE **today** with an after church brunch at Beggar's Banquet. For more information about ACHE, contact Pastor Haley at 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, or Susan Godfrey at 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.

ENGAGING THE WORD: There is no Bible study this week, but it will resume next week.

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP: There are no PCYG gatherings or events tonight. For more information about PCYG, contact Elisha, by emailing esmith@thepeopleschurch.com.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP: The Tuesday Men's group meets at **7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Robertson Room**. On January 9, the group will begin reading 'Meeting Jesus for the First Time,' by Marcus J. Borg.

WEDNESDAY MEN'S GROUP: Join the men's Wednesday discussion group that meets **every Wednesday at noon in The Robertson Room** for good conversation and donuts. Currently the group is reading 'Saving Jesus From the Church' by Robin Meyers.

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 Bible study at **6:30 p.m.** All are welcome!

