



Christmas Eve 2023



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com



SUNDAY SERVICE INFORMATION

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

Sunday School is offered after
the Children's Message.

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.

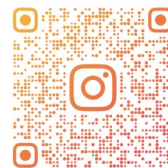
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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!

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THE PEOPLES CHURCH
OF EAST LANSING

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Order of Service | Christmas Eve 2024 | 9 P.M.

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

Prelude

Carol Medley
Judy Kabodian, Organist

Noel Rawsthorne

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

***Opening Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1, 3-4)

no. 133

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, We greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Text & Music: John Francis Wade, 1743
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

***Call to Worship**

One Ready or not, the time has come!
In the midst of our darkness, a star brightly shines!

**All With shepherds and angels, cattle and kings,
We come to the stable to meet our Savior!**

One Come with wonder! Stand in awe!
See God's love in human form.

**All The wait is over and we rejoice!
Jesus is born, Emmanuel!**

****Prayer of Adoration***

God of love, you have gathered us together on this holiest of nights and blessed us with your presence. Open our eyes to the light of Christ which shines in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, fear, pain and sorrow. Speak to us once again of your love. May we hear the Good News of Christ Jesus and believe in the power of your salvation. May we always stand in awe and wonder at the news that Christmas brings, and may we carry this light with us out into the world. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Anthem

**A Christmas Carol
Sanctuary Choir Directed by Dr. Jonathan Reed**

Zebulon M. Highben

The Christchild lay on Mary's lap, his hair was like a light. (O weary, weary were the world, but here is all aright.) The Christchild lay on Mary's breast, his hair was like a star. (O stern and cunning are the kings, but here the true hearts are.) The Christchild lay on Mary's heart, his hair was like a fire. (O weary, weary is the world, but here the world's desire.) The Christchild stood at Mary's knee, his hair was like a crown. And all the flowers looked up at him, and all the stars looked down.

Bidding Prayer for Christmas Eve 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

**The First Noel
Sanctuary Choir directed by Jonathan Reed**

arr. Dan Forrest

Noel, Noel, born is the King, Noel. The first Noel, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the king of Israel. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far. And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel, Noel! Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King, Noel!



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**

God of wonder, we give thanks for every gift we have received from you and offer these tokens in response. May we use this offering to bring hope, help, and healing to people in need. And may the spirit of Emanuel guide our giving and our living. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***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

CLI#: 1698862

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

"Ready or Not"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Sharing the Light

Lighting of the candles

Closing Hymn

Silent Night (v. 1-4)

no. 122

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Silent Night
Text: Joseph Mohr (1816)
Music: Franz Xaver Gruber (1818)
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on "Adeste Fideles"
Judy Kabodian, Organist

David Hegarty

*Thank you for joining us at The Peoples Church this Christmas Eve.
We wish you all of a merry Christmas, and pray that this season and the New Year
are full of God's love and grace. Peace be with you.*

Please take a poinsettia with you!



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.

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: 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. There is no Bible study this week or next week.**

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP: PCYG meets Sunday evenings for youth choir and youth handbell choir, and for their regular gathering at 6:30 p.m. For more information about PCYG, contact Elisha, by emailing 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 for more information.

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**.

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 discussion on faith and the news at **6:30 p.m.** All are welcome! **There is no Wednesday community dinner or faith in the news this Wednesday, December 27, but Pastor Shawnthea will still host dance aerobics at the usual time.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: If you would like to learn about becoming a member of The Peoples Church, join us for a New Members class on **Sunday, February 11, 2024, following our 10:30 a.m. worship service.** Classes last 60-90 minutes and cover topics such as formal membership, our beliefs as a church, and more. These classes are only informational, and do not obligate you to become a member. If you are interested in joining us on February 11, please contact our membership coordinator, Beth Lundy, via email at Blundy@thepeopleschurch.com to register and to indicate if you will need childcare provided.

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.

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