

CHRISTMAS EVE 2016 | 6:00 P.M.



“She will give birth to a son, you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

+ Matthew 1:21 +



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

200 W. Grand River Ave. | East Lansing, MI 48823
517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 a.m. (Returns Jan. 8) & 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! RETURNS JAN. 11

5:30 p.m. (Meal) & 6:30 p.m. (Programs)

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.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP | CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

Prelude

Traditional Carols
Coppertone Ringers directed by Elizabeth Reed

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Andrew Pomerville

Worship is both personal and communal, formal and informal, intimate and casual. Here at The Peoples Church, we recognize that people come to worship God in both joy and pain, faith and doubt, with laughter and with tears. Our worship tries to reflect a desire both for meditation and celebration. Please know you are invited to participate in any and all ways you feel led. Our songs, prayers, words and actions are the works of imperfect people trying to worship a perfect God.

Call to Worship (Isaiah 9:2, 6; John 1:4, 5, 14)

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

People: We have beheld Christ's brilliant, life changing glory!

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

People: And in him is the light of humanity.

Leader: Let all come and worship our living God!

Gathering Hymn

(Please stand if able.)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

No. 133

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Rev. Drew Filkins

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we rejoice that you, so wonderful, so mighty, so everlasting, and so princely, entered time in the humility of human flesh, in a lowly stable in Bethlehem, as the son of a peasant couple. Your birth gives us great joy! Make our joy complete so that we spend our lives looking to the needs of others. By the power of your Spirit, unite us in your attitude of humble service. In your hope-filled name, we pray. Amen.

Responsive Song

"Away in a Manger"

No. 115

First Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Betsy Aho

(Pew Bible Page 966, Large Print Page 1,468)

Anthems

Selections from the 2016 Children's Christmas Pageant
Carol Choir directed by Elizabeth Reed

"Nova, Nova!"

Michael Bedford

Denali Pomerville and Haley Phillips, soloists

"Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem"

Jane Marshall

Blake Burke, Annika Drzal, Alison Drzal, Abby Lindley, Luke Nunez

"Jesus Christ Is Born Today"

Grier and Wagner

*Dean Przbyski-tambourine; Raleigh Canady-finger cymbals;
with the Coppertone Ringers*

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ *(Please stand if able.)*

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Second Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

(Pew Bible Page 966, Large Print Page 1,469)

Hymn

"Joy to the World"

No. 134

(Please stand if able.)

Sermon

"Don't Go Home The Same Way You Came "

Rev. Andrew Pomerville



@Connect2TPC #TPCsermon

Prayers of the People

(During the pastoral prayer there will be a time to offer prayers of joy and concern, voiced aloud or silently for and on behalf of others.)

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.

Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts

Gifts shared through our Christmas Eve offertory will benefit Lansing's Christian Services Utility Fund to assist local families in need with electric, gas and water bills during the winter months. They will also be invested into The Peoples Church infrastructure as we look forward to beginning needed renovations on our Snider Social Hall in 2016. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory "Born in Bethlehem" Powell, Lee, Avery, Anderson, Carr
Youth Choir 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; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Christmas Anthem "Night of Silence" arr. Daniel Kantor
Youth Choir and alumni directed by Elizabeth Reed

Benediction *(Please stand if able.)*

Sending Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night!" **No. 122**

Postlude "Joy to the World" arr. Fred Bock

Merry Christmas

On behalf of our pastors, elders and staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas. Whether you are a first time visitor, a long time member or somewhere in between, your presence is important. We are so glad you're worshiping with us tonight.

The Peoples Church is a multi-denominational congregation with worship, education and service opportunities for people of all ages and stages of faith. Our growing congregation strives to reflect Christ's love in many ways, including local, national and international mission partnerships.

We hope you find Christmas Eve worship meaningful, and invite you to continue to be part of our faith community. You are welcome here!

- Pastor Andrew

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 26 - DEC. 30.



MAKE A GIFT ONLINE | ThePeoplesChurch.com/GIVE