

Sanctuary Service, Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

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

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

517.332.5073 | ThePeoplesChurch.com

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!



@TPCEASTLANSING



THE PEOPLES CHURCH
OF EAST LANSING

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE
HERE!



Order of Service | December 24, 2023

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

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Judy Kabodian, Organist

arr. Diane Bish

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

One All creation holds its breath.
The time is almost here.

**All The shepherds follow the sheep in the fields;
The Magi follow the star in the sky.**

One A choir of angels prepares to sing
As we prepare to receive God's gift.

**All Our journey to the manger is almost over.
May hope, peace, joy and love fill our hearts this day.**

One All creation holds its breath.
The time is almost here!

***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

Prayer of Confession

God of love and light, this season has been so busy that we haven't always been at our best. We've been too busy to spend much time in prayer. Our days are full of Christmas obligations and expectations rather than the quiet joy of Advent. In a season marked by too many activities and not enough rest, we stumble toward the manger carrying a load of care. Even in this church, we are more concerned with getting through the season rather than encountering Christ. Forgive us, God. Slow us down and quiet our spirits so we might catch sight of Jesus. We ask all this in Christ's 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

Love

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1-4)

no. 121

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon

“A Taste of Love”

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

Hymn of Response

In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 1-4)

no. 144

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

In the Bleak Midwinter
Text: Christina Rossetti (1872)
Music: Gustav Holst (1906)
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Pastoral Prayer 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



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

Gracious God, you are so good to us. We give you thanks and ask you to bless this offering. May these gifts be used to express our joy in knowing Christ Jesus. We pray all this in his name, Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (v. 1-3)

no. 132

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is
born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ
was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Text: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale (1853)

Music: German folk melody (14th cent.); harm. David Hugh Jones (1953)

Copyright: 2013

CLI#: 1698862

***Benediction**

Postlude

Trumpet Fanfare on "Adeste Fideles"
Judy Kabodian, Organist

Sharon Elery Rogers



ANNOUNCEMENTS


8:30 SERVICES: There are no 8:30 a.m. services during the month of December. We encourage all of our regular 8:30 service goers to join our 10:30 a.m. services during Advent and Christmas.

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.

2023 GIVING: As we come to the end of 2023, we want to remind all of our faithful givers and tithers to submit your final 2023 gifts in the next couple of weeks, *if you want them reflected on your 2023 giving summary/statement.* Also, if you have not yet pledged

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.

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

PEOPLES CHURCH YOUTH GROUP: Before the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service, Coppertones will rehearse at 3:10 p.m., then youth choir will rehearse at 3:45 p.m., and the youth choir and alumni choir will rehearse together at 4:10 p.m. Coppertones will begin their service prelude at 4:45 p.m. For more information about PCYG, contact Elisha, by emailing esmith@thepeopleschurch.com.

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 Shawnthea will still host dance aerobics at her usual time.** We'll see you next week!