

December 10, 2023 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music ~ Mark Handford

Welcome and Announcements ~ Judy McGregor, liturgist

Prelude and Procession of the Elements of Communion

*“Light One Candle”* (N. Sleeth)

*Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.*

*He brings peace to every heart, He comes, He comes.* (repeat)

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Yvonne Cameron and Ben Worthington

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: Into the pain, darkness and hardship of our world, God sent his Son.

People: Jesus brought new life, love and peace to all he ministered to.

Leader: Christ, when he faced storms, declared “peace, be still.”

People: Spirit of God, grant us rest and peace from the turmoil of our lives and world. Amen.

*\*you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

*\*Hymn #88 ~ “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 2)*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

God, our souls are restless until we find rest in you. Forgive us for the times when in our restlessness we fall prey to sin. Grant us forgiveness and the peace only you can give. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #630 ~ *“Fairest Lord Jesus”* (v. 4)

*Beautiful Savior! Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!*

*Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus #627 ~ *“I Love You, Lord”* (x2)

*I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O, my soul, rejoice.*

*Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.*

Offering Prayer

Offertory #82 ~ *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

The Jesse Tree

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 40:1-11

Special Music ~ *“An Advent Reflection”* (R.E. Schram) ~ Celebration Choir

Christian Scripture ~ John 14:25-28

Message ~ *“Peace”*

\*Hymn #118 ~ *“While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks”* (v.1,3,6)

A time for sharing the joys and concerns of our community.

Congregational Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer ~ *in unison*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ~ *responsive*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*“All Belong Here”* ~ (L. Rand/H. Rand) as recorded by The Many

*Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.*

*Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.*

*At this table come as you are, broken and bleeding's ok.*

*At this table eat and be filled, come and drink in this grace.*

*Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.  
Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.*

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

\*Hymn #132 ~ “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers

\*Benediction

Choral Response #100 ~ “Canticle of the Turning” (verse 1 and refrain)  
*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#505455650

**Christmas Joy ~ Special Offering**

“Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God’s perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us - past, present and future - who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.” An envelope was included in your packet.

**REMINDER: THANK YOU** to those who have made a 2024 Stewardship commitment. And if you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider making a pledge as soon as possible so that the 2024 budget may be prepared.

**Pledges to date: General Fund: \$86,408.00. 2024 Goal: \$225,000.00**

From Cheryl Dove...The St. Paul’s Mission event to Forgotten Harvest on Dec. 6, 2023 was a huge success. We had 7 volunteers. The Forgotten Harvest team was very impressed and thankful with our hard-working team and all we accomplished. Working with other volunteers we sorted and packed 9,625 pounds of food to be distributed in Detroit. Each pound is one meal. The St. Paul’s Mission Team wishes to say a huge thank-you to our volunteers.

**SOUP FOR A CHANGE** to support Redford Interfaith Relief has updated their dates and menu. Copies are available on the lobby table.

**From Karen Barsy...*Holiday Moving With the Spirit* meets to share movement, scripture, imagery, and fellowship on Tuesday mornings at 10:30AM on December 12, and 19 in Room 11 and online via GoogleMeet. As we move through Advent, we will celebrate the anticipation of waiting right up to the joy of the season together!!**

**Fee is \$15.00 payable to Karen.**

**From Kathy Potter...Thank you to all who came out to assemble our cookie decorating kits for Crossroads Farm!! Thanks, too, to all who baked & bagged cookies & donated sprinkles & boxes!!! We assembled 128 kits & donated many dozens of extra cookies for the ministry to freeze & use for future youth events!! Crossroads Farms serves an underserved population of at-risk rural youth in Western Michigan.**

**These kits are added to a package to present to the youth in their ministry as an expression of Christ's love for them.**

**And...St. Paul's Giving Tree 2023 will be supporting the Oakland County Foster Closet that supports foster children and needy families in Oakland & Wayne County. Collections began Sunday, December 3rd & will run through Sunday, January 7th. Items needed are listed & flyers are available in the lobby. Age specific items for infants through teens: FULL SIZED 3 in 1 shampoo/conditioner/body wash, lotion, and deodorant, as well as toothbrushes, diapers, pull-ups, and feminine hygiene products.**

**Please hold those listed in prayer... and REVIEW and REPORT updates, PLEASE!**

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*

Bill Garvey, Mike Graham, Janet Frank, Grace Erwin  
August and Faith Kornowicz, Karen Bright, Steve Boyak, Sheldon Davis, Pam Phillips  
Suzanne Tabaka, Jim Roye, Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell  
Susan Grant, Bruce Phillips, Anna Richardson, Nate Statly (MSU shooting victim) ~ friend of Joey Nicholas  
Kris Purdy ~ niece of Grace Erwin; Julie Newell ~ cousin of Pam Phillips  
Elizabeth ~ sister-in law of Pat Garvey; Andy ~ nephew of Pat Garvey  
Linda Thompson and her sister, Shirley Kircoff  
Joan Velis and family; John Branch ~ father of Christie Piastowski  
Dave Schulz ~ nephew of Carol and Mike Graham  
Cousins of Terry Earnley; Jennifer Speiles ~ friend of Terry Earnley  
Lois Wludyka and John Candiloro ~ friends of August Kornowicz  
Ray and Mary Clark ~ neighbors of Don and Meta Tulley  
Richard Rosenberg and Mike Hyatt ~ friends of Judy McGregor  
Sarah and Mason Young ~ family of Judy McGregor  
Ben Abela ~ son-in-law of August and Faith Kornowicz  
Macaylah Whitlock ~ daughter of the Rev. Kellie and Marc Whitlock  
Pamela Serene ~ daughter of the late Marilyn Allen, Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck  
Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean  
Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt  
Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike and Carol Graham  
Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of the late Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda Seymour  
David Bonandrini ~ son of Ben; Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook  
Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips; Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo  
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling and Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron and Janet Frank  
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon and Marion Davis