



ORDER OF WORSHIP | JANUARY 6, 2018

Prelude

“In Thee Is Gladness”
Judy Kabodian, organ

J.S. Bach

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Drew Filkins

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.

Epiphany Call to Worship

Ben Novello, confirmand

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: The people who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

People: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord,

People: for God has done wondrous things!

Gathering Hymn “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

No. 159

Procession of the Light of Christ

Anna Harvey & Zach Palsrock, acolytes

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.



200 W. Grand River Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-332-5073

ThePeoplesChurch.com

Prayer of Confession (inspired by Matthew 2: 1-18)

Rev. Case Van Kempen

All: Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

All: God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Congregational Response "Great God of Every Blessing" (verse 3)

No. 694

**Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
Transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

First Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Children's Moment (10:30 a.m.)

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Celebration of Holy Communion

Rev. Betsy Aho

Communion Hymns

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

No. 151

"I Danced in the Morning"

No. 157

"Sing of God Made Manifest"

No. 156

Anthem

"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"
Sanctuary Choir, directed by Dr. Jonathan Reed

Carl F. Schalk

Second Reading

Matthew 2:13-23
(Pew Bible Page 966; Large Print 1,470)

Sermon

"That's A Lot of Walking"
 [@Connect2TPC](#) #TPCsermon

Rev. Drew Filkins

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.

Recognition of Rob Nichols

Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts

Offertory

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"

Johann Pachelbel

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.**

Prayer of Dedication

Lord, you came to us as light in the darkness and you call us to live as your glowing presence in the midst of the night. May we use our time, talents and treasures to bring your light to all those in need. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Come, Live in the Light"

No. 749

Benediction

Benediction Response

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Postlude

"Unto Us a Child Is Born"

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

PEOPLES 101

Join us **TODAY** in the Fishbach Library at 11:30 a.m. for Peoples 101 and learn more about The Peoples Church. This informational meeting will last approximately 30 minutes. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Wednesday Night Live! programming resumes **January 9, 2019**. Join us in the Robertson Room at 6:30, Wednesdays, in January as Pastor Drew leads a discussion from the iconic book, *God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism*, by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

CONNECTED HEARTS IN CHRIST (CHICs) WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Connected Hearts In Christ (CHICs) Women's Bible Study starts a brand a new study on the Book of Romans beginning **January 10, 2019**. We meet on Thursdays in the Robertson Room from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and all are welcome! This group had 8 members in the Fall and we'd love to see it grow. If you've been looking for a gathering to share faith and fellowship, CHICs might be the perfect answer. Contact Beth Lundy at lundybb@comcast.net with any questions.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Mark your calendars! Join us for lunch and fellowship on **January 13** at Beggar's Banquet after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. No need to RSVP! The Welcome Ministry has tables reserved for The Peoples Church. All ages welcome.



THE PEOPLES FORUM

Programming for a new series of the Peoples Forum will resume on **January 13, 2019** with David Pearson representing the Park District Development. Come learn about the building adjacent to The Peoples Church!

GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP



Pastor Betsy leads this covenant group through curriculum and discussion that moves participants toward closure of unresolved grief as a result of death, illness, divorce or other losses. This group is an 8 week commitment, with consistent attendance appreciated. The group will meet on Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **January 24 - March 21, 2019** (no meeting on March 6). Space is limited, and registration is required by contacting Pastor Betsy. Whether you are dealing with recent loss or loss from a long time ago, this group has something healing to offer you.

TALENT SHOW: SAVE THE DATE!

"We Hunger For Your Talent" Talent Show and Empty Bowls fundraiser is coming live to The Peoples Church Snider Social Hall on **February 3, 2019** following the 10:30 a.m. service! Seeking talent of all ages and all kinds! The congregation is invited to enjoy Gerri Lynn's famous chili, make donations for handmade empty bowls to fight hunger, and be bowled over by the talent on stage! More details in the January *Portal*.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting held on January 27 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service to vote on the 2019 budget.