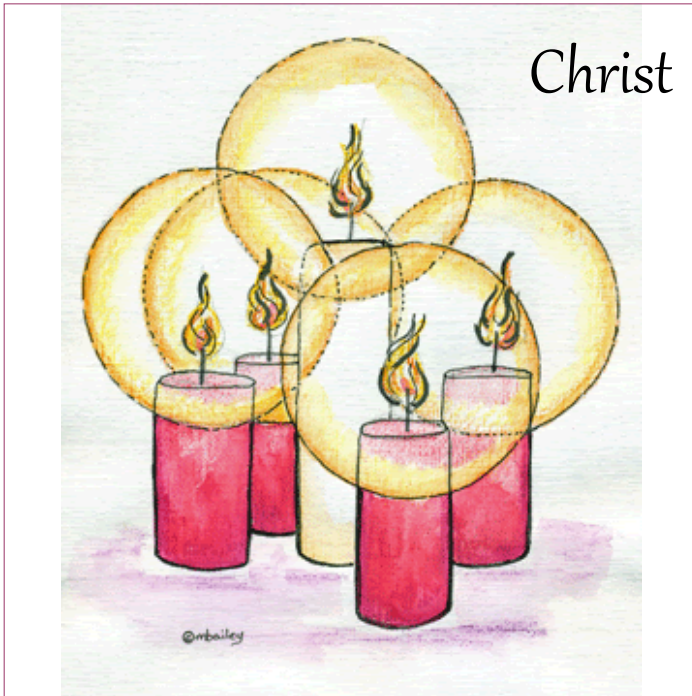


DECEMBER 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Service



THE PEOPLES CHURCH

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

*Welcome to Our Christmas
Eve Service!*

*Masks are required for this
service regardless of
vaccination status!*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

Our community meal
outreach program will
resume on January 5th from
5–6 p.m. at the Northwest
entrance of the building.

For more details, check the
[Peoples Church Facebook](#)
page.

ASL Interpreted Service

The Peoples Church is proud
to welcome ASL interpreters
for our Christmas Eve
Service.

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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Dr. Jonathan Reed, Director of Music

Elizabeth Reed, Children's Music & Bell Choir Director

Judy Kabodian, Musician in Residence

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. Kari Naghtin, 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, click
[here!](#)

To join the worship
service via telephone,
please dial
(844) 933-0517
and follow the prompts.

**MAKE A GIFT
ONLINE**

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Order of Service | December 24, 2021

Prelude

Noel Polonais
Judy Kabodian, Organist

Alexander Guilmant

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

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

***Call to Worship**

One Ready or not, the wait is over.

Our plans and preparations must be set aside.

**All In the midst of our darkness, a star brightly shines.
In the midst of creation, salvation is born.**

One Come to the stable and see God's love.

The Prince of Peace, Mary's baby, is lying in a manger.

All Tonight is the night, ready or not.

We stand in the presence of God's mystery with a sense of awe and wonder.

One The light has come! We will rejoice!

All We will rejoice for Christ the Lord is born!

***Gathering 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!

Refrain: *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! Refrain.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! Refrain.

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Text and Music: John Francis Wade (1743)
Copyright: 2013
CL#: 1698862

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: CHRIST

Mueller Family

Prayer: **Great God of love and light, as we stand in the holy silence of this moment, may we feel your powerful presence and peace. May our faith be born anew as we Celebrate the birth of Jesus, your son and our savior. Amen.**

Music Ding Dong! Merrily on High arr. Charles Wood
Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, And i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Bidding Prayer and The Lord's Prayer Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell
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.

Solo Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow! Arr. Mark Hayes
Melanie Walker, Soprano

Rise up shepherd, rise up shepherd, rise up shepherd and follow! There's a star in the East on Christmas morn: Rise up, shepherd, and follow! It will lead to the place where the Savior's born; Rise up, shepherd, and follow! Leave your sheep and leave your lambs; Rise up, shepherd, and follow! Leave your ewes and leave your rams; Rise up, shepherd, and follow! Follow, follow! Rise up, shepherd, and follow! Follow the star of Bethlehem; Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

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

Children's Message

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.

(hymn continued on next page)

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!

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Text: Phillips Brooks (1868)
Music: Lewis Henry Redner (1868)
Copyright: 2013
CLI#: 1698862

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Sanctuary Choir directed by Dr. Jonathan Reed

*Born in a stable so rare, born so long ago; Born 'neath light of star, he who loved us so. **Refrain: Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.** Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. **Refrain.** Wisemen from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. **Refrain.** Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know. **Refrain.***

***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 love and God of light, we thank you for the promise of this season. In gratitude for the gift of Jesus, we offer these gifts in return. May the spirit of Christmas that fills this moment linger in our hearts throughout the year. We pray all this in Christ's name. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

"Keeping Christmas"

Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe

***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.

(hymn continued on next page)

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

Sharing the Light

***Benediction**

Postlude

I Saw Three Ships

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

****Please stand as able***

Christmas 2021 Poinsettia Dedication

In Memory of...

Gregory Barr who was my wiseman, my angel, and my shining star, given by Abby Barr

My parents, Donald and Caroline Peterik, given by Kary Devereaux

Ronald Mitchell, given by Kathi and Jessie Mitchell

Our mom, Mary Dalley, given by Emily, Laura and Julie

Kenneth & Aura Babbitt, given by Paul Babbitt

Sharon Dawson, given by Jim and Dottie Spousta

William Woolsey, given by Janet Woolsey, Debra Trowbridge, and Jane Hedeem

Howard E. & Daisy T. Angell, given by Jann Angell

Our parents Larry and Helen Giester, Joe & Rosie Perron, given by Ray & Janet Perron

Dr. Curtis Liechty and John Liechty, given by Jim and Connie Close

Don and June Whipp, given by Terry and Beverly Oetzel

Judy DeGraw, given by husband, Alan De Graw

Marley and Doug Pearson, given by Diane & Len Bartoszewicz

Walter Goff, given by Eleanor Goff and Family

Michael Harrison, given by all of his family

Rollie and Marilyn Ledebuhr, given by David and Jane Ledebuhr

Dr. and Mrs. Bejnamin Stone, given by The Stone family

Marty Simonds, given by Rick Simonds & Family

Curt Liechty and our son, John, given by Mary and Family

Thomas H. Vaughn and Steward B. Hoffman, Jr., given by Merrilyn Vaughn-Hoffman

Greg Hilton, given by Suzette Hilton

Janet Hicks Ronk, given by David F. Ronk Sr.

Robert & Zoe Hicks Family, given by David F. Ronk Sr.

Irving & Ruby Ronk Family, given by David F. Ronk Sr.

Chuck Wing, given by Nancy

In Memory of...

Terri Moore, given by Betty & Mike Moore

My parents, Roy H. and Marion Heil, given by Susan Heil-Godfrey

Ruth Ann Ference, given by Robert A. Ference

Bill Walbridge, given by Joshua Barton & Mary Jane Walbridge

Carolyn Marie Rowe Hill, given by Diane Shafer

Linda Janecke and Zorob Kabodian, given by Aram and Judy Kabodian

Carol O. Ekern, given by Fran Ekern

Diane Johnston, given by Loretta Johnston

Glenna and Wayne Steinkamp, Adele and William Longhway, Jerry Longhway and Bernie Steinkamp given by Bob & Margie Steinkamp

Ralph and Lilly Cummins (dad and mom/grandpa and grandma) given by Chris and Bill Collette and Jon Kwisel

Our grandparents, Bessie Collette, Martha Kell, and James Kell, given by Bill Collette, Chris Collette & Jon Kwisel

Dr. Curt Liechty, John Liechty, Rev. Frank McAuley, and the parents of Lana and Steve Wagner, given by Steve and Lana Wagner

Dorwin & Helen Hoffmeyer, and Ralph & Ethel Mae Maxwell, given by Tom and Lynne Hoffmeyer

Our Grandparents, Jack and Polly Reed and Tom DeSimone, given by Hallie and Christopher Reed

My Christmas Grandmother who always made the season even more special, given by Thelma Luther

Lon & Esther Nowack, Gail & Camille Rockwell, given by Mary Nowack and David Rockwell

My brother, Merrill Ferris, who died on December 27th, 1986, just before his 50th birthday on January 1, 1987, given by Jake Ferris.

Our cousins, Todd Tuma, Tom Tuma, and Mike Tuma, given by Bill & Sharon Tuma

Parents, Vivian & Harold Laser, & sister, Marlene Stemen, given by Sandy Draggoo

Dorman & Jean Skeels, Joseph L. Toth Jr., given in loving memory from your son and daughter: David & Stephanie Skeels, & Stephen Toth

George & Katie Kerr, given by their children: Christine, Calvin, Gwendolyn and Elizabeth Ann

Our beloved parents, Jim & Mae Spousta, Lloyd & Dorothy Harris, given by Jim & Dottie Spousta

Kenneth & Mildred Moore, Allen Woolsey & Grace Garfield, given by Janet Woolsey, Debra Trowbridge, and Jane Hedeem

In Memory of...

Remembering all families who have lost dear ones during the pandemic, given by Jerry & Val Nilson

Franklin Logsdon, given by the Logsdon and Forbes family, and Staci, Dylan, and Marissa McCracken

Our parents, Arthur & Marjorie Gard, Ed & Thelma Wegenke, and our son, Bart, given by Gary & Sandra Wegenke

Our parents, Wilbur and Ruth Close, Rev. & Mrs. George Walton given by Jim and Connie Close

In Celebration of...

Our grandchildren, Beth and Kate Bryson, given by Carol and Sandy Bryson

The life of Dr. Harvey Allis, given by Susan Allis

The life of Dr. Dave Mills, given by Susan Allis

Our children, Walter, Clara and Ren, given by Neil Mueller and Shawnthea Monroe

Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell, given by Rev. Dr. Monroe

The 2021 Council of Elders, given by Rev. Dr. Monroe

A Healthy New Year, given by Tony & Kellie Wells

The Ruth and Wilbur Wright families, given by Joan Wright

My family, near and far! Given by Cathy Lancaster

Our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents Lary & Mary Hill, given by Tonia & Steve Whittaker & the whole Whittaker clan!

The 1960 Woodies of Camp Westminster; Bread of a day; wine of a year; friends of a lifetime. Carolyn, Holly, Joy, Jude, Karen, Kathy, Lind, Mary and Mary.

In Honor of...

My late husband, Robert Newbury. Given by Linda Newbury

Those school employees who continue to educate our students in difficult conditions, given by Barbara McMillan

Dr. Curt Liechty, John Liechty, Rev. Frank McAuley, and the family of Lana and Steve Wagner, given by Steve and Lana Wagner

To the Glory of God

Given by Richard and Kay Comstock