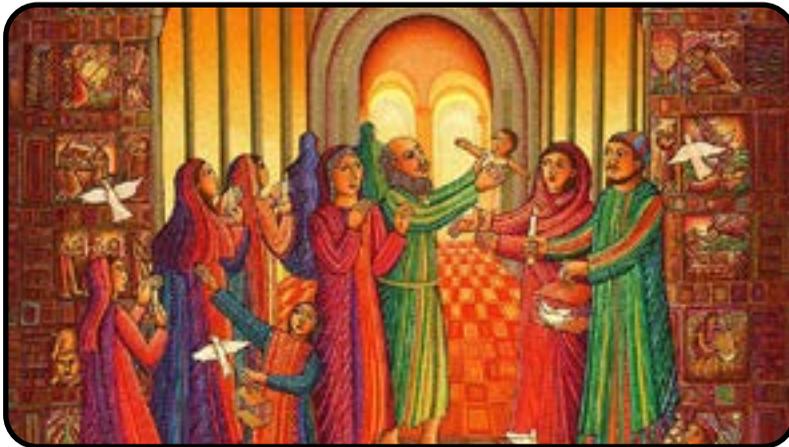


SUNDAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 27, 2020



"...they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord..."

Luke 2:22

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

All regularly scheduled Sunday programs have been suspended until further notice.

Worship Service:

10:30 a.m. - in the Sanctuary &
Livestream on YouTube

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

WNL! programming will return when it is safe to do so. Updates will be provided as they happen.

A community meal is still served for those who need one. Meals can be picked up in the Northwest entrance of the building.

ASL Interpreted Service

The Peoples Church is proud to welcome ASL interpreters for our 10:30 a.m. worship service and for special events.



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. Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings.

Reception Desk 332.5073

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Elisha Smith 332.6264
Youth Director
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Dr. Jonathan Reed, Director of Music
Elizabeth Reed, Children's Music & Bell Choir Director
Judy Kabodian, Musician in Residence
office@thepeopleschurch.com

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Elders meet at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Robertson Room.

Bob Cantrell, Chairperson
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.



To join the worship service via telephone, please dial **517-583-3949** and follow the prompts.

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE!

[CLICK HERE!](#)

ORDER OF WORSHIP | DECEMBER 27, 2020

Prelude

"Austrian Shepherd's Carol"
Judy Kabodian, organ

arr. Dale Wood

Welcome to The Peoples Church!

Rev. Penny Swartz

Call to Worship

One: Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation.
Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promises.

All: God commanded, and we were created. We are children of the Most High.

One: Praise God from the heights of heaven. Praise God, all people of the earth.

All: God opens our eyes to see the light. We will be called by a new name.

One: Men and women, youth and aged, sing of God's glory; shout your praise.

All: God has made us heirs of promise. We will praise God's holy name.

Gathering Hymn

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" (verses 1 - 3)

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God. God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode. On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near. Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day, safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love, well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove. Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage? Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Text: John Newton (1775); alt.
Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1797); alt.
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Drew Filkins

We bring our prayers to you, gracious God, sensing that there is more to life than the ways we have known. We are drawn to the Messiah, yet we shrink from following where faith leads. We are afraid of what we might lose if we are guided by the Spirit. Thoughts of sacrifice and servanthood are not appealing to us. We are reluctant to enter into a close relationship with you. We think we know, better than you, what is best for us. Forgive our arrogance. Help us see the Christ. Amen.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response "We Are Forgiven"

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Children's Message/Baptism Jack Fickies
Born March 12, 2009

Solo "Wexford Carol" arr. Nancy Grundahl
Christine Roberts, mezzo-soprano

Good people all this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas time. In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

With thankful hearts and joyful minds the shepherds went the babe to find, and as God's angel hath foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the mother maid attending on the Lord of Life who came to earth to end all strife. With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas time. In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

A Reading from Scripture Luke 2:22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." 36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon "The Messiah is a Baby?" Rev. Penny Swartz

Hymn of Response "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" (verses 1, 3 and 4)

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there, and of the news that came to them from angels in the air. The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today. Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill, of him who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still. For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll, when faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay, of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away. For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave, and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem
Text: Louis FitzGerald Benson (1899)
Music: English County Songs (1893); harm. Ralph Vaughn Williams
Copyright: 2013
CCLI#: 1698862

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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

[Click here to give your offering to our virtual Offertory Plate](#)

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

With joyous praise, we return to you a portion of all you have given to us. May our giving exceed the demands of the law. You have invited us to sacrifices befitting our blessings. You have asked us to care for those less privileged. What we offer in these moments is a beginning. We will ponder again your amazing grace in granting us life and offering the child Jesus to bring us back to you. Praise be to you, O God. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (verses 1 - 3)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Text: African American spiritual; stanzas John W. Work II (1940)

Music: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work II (1940); harm. Melva Wilson Costen (1987)

Copyright: 2013

CCLI#: 1698862

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

"Sussex Carol"

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE PEOPLES CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN

Our church has a very active, energetic and viable prayer chain that includes about 40 prayer warriors praying daily for cherished individuals who need the comfort and healing of prayer. People may have lost loved ones, have friends or family who are ill or have the need for mental, emotional or physical support. To request prayers, all it takes is approval from those needing prayers, an agreement to support this covenant group and periodic updating. Grieving individuals may receive prayers for 1 year. All other requests need updating every 3 months. Know that you may always extend these guidelines, if needed. Contact the church office or Janet Perron at: jrperron@comcast.net if you have a prayer request, or if you are interested in joining the prayer chain. It helps to have **Peoples Church Prayer Group** on the subject line.

CHICs BIBLE STUDY GROUP



CHICs (Connected Hearts in Christ) Small Group will be starting a discussion of *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. In this book, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations. She is undaunted by the most difficult passages and wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries. The group will start on **January 7** over Zoom and meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us please email Beth Lundy at Lundybb@comcast.net or 610.246.0029 by call or text.

THE PEOPLES FORUM

The Peoples Forum is back and offering monthly presentations from a dynamic lineup of guest speakers! The meetings will take place via Zoom, once per month (for now), at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming forums:

January 10: Bernie Porn
Political Strategist

February 7: Will Repko
MSU Debate Coach of National Champion Debate Team

March 7: Neil Mueller
Trumpeter

[Join the Zoom meeting here](#); Meeting ID: 867 6240 8427; Passcode: Forum. Or, you can dial 1 301 715 8592 and enter the meeting ID: 867 6240 8427; Passcode: 770490. Email questions to [Mary West](#).

VIRTUAL GROUPS

Below are some of our currently offered Bible studies or fellowship groups that meet virtually, via Zoom.



SERMON PREVIEW GROUP: This group will resume on January 6.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE: Monday, December 28, will be the last Monday Morning Bible. Join us via Zoom as we celebrate the 33 years of this bible study. To join the meeting, [click here](#). Or, on your Zoom app enter meeting ID: 369 714 134 and enter the passcode: MMB. You can also dial 1.312.626.6799 and when prompted enter meeting ID: 369 714 134 and then passcode: 456440.

TUESDAY MORNING MENS GROUP: meets each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. To join, [click here](#). The meeting ID is: 963 085 991. You can also dial 1.646.558.8656 and when prompted enter the meeting code 963 085 991. They are studying the book, *Strength to Love* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

WEDNESDAY NOON MENS GROUP: meets each Wednesday at Noon. To join, [click here](#).

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP*

Join us, virtually each Sunday, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service for fellowship. It's easy! Grab a cup of your favorite coffee and a sweet snack and log on to Zoom.

You can join the meeting by clicking on this link: [Join Zoom Meeting](#), or in your Zoom app enter Meeting ID: 885 9630 8098 and when asked for a password enter: TPC (please note, this is a new meeting link ID and passcode).

Don't have access to internet? No problem! You can still join us from ANY phone! Dial by your location; see below:

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Enter the Meeting ID: 885 9630 8098 and password 680020

* Please note: For those who are with us in person for worship, there will not be a fellowship until further notice. Virtual fellowship will continue for those at home.



