

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "Passacaglia from Suite no. 7" Handel

WELCOME

INTROIT "God Is Near" Raney

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Vicki Drown and Nancy Sue MacDonald

During Advent we remember God's faithfulness shown to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's humility set before us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's commands, spoken to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's incredible love shared with us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

...

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. 22:20; Isa. 7:14; Rom. 16:25-27

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Look! The young woman is with child;

she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.

The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

To God be the glory forever! Amen.

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+**HYMN #156** TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Matt. 3:2-3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,

you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.

We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,

for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

We accept lies as truth,

exploit neighbors,

abuse the earth,

and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,

and to seek things that will endure

when Christ comes to judge the world.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

+ Those who are able may stand.

1

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

... we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Isa. 35:1, 10

HYMN #167 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Emmanuel, come;

O come and save us.

...

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING Luke 1:46-47, 51-53

OFFERTORY "Waltz in a minor, B.150" Chopin

+**RESPONSE #173** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (refrain) ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

+**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Scots Confession* (1560)

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 7:10-16

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 1:1-7

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

RESPONSE Matt. 3:2

Repent and return to God;

the realm of heaven is at hand.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Angels Are Making Their Rounds" Choplin

LITANY FOR ADVENT O Antiphons

O Wisdom ... Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai ... Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse ... Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David ... Come to set the prisoners free.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Radiant Dawn ... and in the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Ruler of the nations ... whom you formed out of clay.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Emmanuel ... Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of grace ... for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN #172 WINCHESTER OLD

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

PRESENTATION The Children and Youth of the Church

"A Hallelujah Christmas: Shadow Nativity"

accompanied by

"Hallelujah (Secret Chord)"

Cohen

+**HYMN #150** GREENSLEEVES

"What Child Is This?"

+**BLESSING** Rom. 15:13

... by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia!

+**CHARGE** Matt. 3:3

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Amen.

+**CHORAL BENEDICTION** PERSONENT HODIE

"Long Ago, Prophets Knew" (verse 4)

POSTLUDE "Prelude in G major Op. 32 No. 5" Rachmaninoff

Join us for fellowship after worship.

It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Guest Pianist: Yi-Hui Chen

Liturgist: Debbie Shellenbarger

Greeters: Vicki Drown and Nancy Sue MacDonald

Sound: Marty Subject

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Steve VanDyke

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#14. Stephen:

Stephen, a Deacon in Jerusalem, becomes the first Christian martyr when the Jewish Council tries him for blasphemy and stones him to death. (Acts 6:7—7:60)

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 46. What do you affirm when you say that “on the third day he rose again from the dead”?

That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

CREDITS

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Presentation: “*A Hallelujah Christmas: Shadow Nativity.*” Inspired by a presentation created and performed annually by Eastside Christian School, Marietta, Georgia.

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

131 E Maple St, Mason, MI 48854-1655
(517) 676-9333
info@masonpresbyterian.org
www.masonpresbyterian.org
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-11:30am

MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick
Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka
Office Manager: Sheren Wright
Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse
Choral Music Accompanist / Organist: Feng Kang
Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey
Child Care: Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins, Hannah Koutz, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons

ELDERS

Class of 2022: Jenny Bond, Ed Clarke, Debbie Shellenbarger, Gladys Welker.
Class of 2023: Bruce Archer, Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.
Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
Elders-Elect: Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.
Clerk: Bruce Archer.

DEACONS

Class of 2022: Marge Clarke, Sandy Diehl, Linda Myall, Mari Nicol.
Class of 2023: Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock, Steve VanDyke.
Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
Deacons-Elect: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timmy Pinches.
Moderators: Sandy Diehl and Mari Nicol.

DAILY PRAYER

search for “Daily Prayer (Presbyterian Book of Common Worship)” in your podcast app, or go to www.buzzsprout.com/1466482

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today	Potluck Dinner	11:15 am
	Choir and Bell Choir Concert	3:00 pm
Wednesday	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:30 am
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor’s Sabbath	
Saturday	Christmas Eve worship service	6:30 pm

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jay Harkness	Dec. 23
Susan Blonshine	Dec. 24

Mason First Presbyterian Church

December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Saint Joseph and the Christ Child
by Guido Reni, 1640

*The fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
(Galatians 5:22-23)*