

December 17, 2023
The Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "Sonata No. 8, mov. II" Beethoven

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Coley and Debbie Johnson
... Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.** Isa. 35:1

CHORAL INTROIT "Christmas Is Coming" Raney

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus says: I am coming soon. Rev. 22:20
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; Isa. 61:1
God sends good news to the oppressed.
My soul magnifies the Lord; Luke 1:46-47
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+HYMN: GTG #102 NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
"Savior of the Nations, Come"

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

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Isa. 35:1, 10
Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: GTG #99 MORNING SONG
"My Soul Gives Glory to My God (Song of Mary)"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Come quickly, Lord;
our hope is in you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION

The Christmas Story

featuring

Beckett Barber	Violet Mackey
Jacob Barber	Ashley Paul
Jill Castle	Ben Pinches
Calvin Hammond	Sam Pinches
Jo Hammond	Sloane St. George
Leah Harkness	Keren Tayong
Tyler Harkness	Caidra VanDyke
Jasmine Leffew	Alison Winans
Hannah Koutz	

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Luke 1:46-47, 51-53

OFFERTORY

"Valse No. 36" Schubert

+RESPONSE: GTG #88

VENI EMMANUEL

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*
(England, 1647)

Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?
A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 O.T. page 527

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55 N.T. page 44

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 N.T. page 159

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28 N.T. page 70

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE

Matt. 3:2

Repent and return to God;
the realm of heaven is at hand.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Waiting" Choplin

MEDITATION

"My Spirit Rejoices in God My Savior" Rev. Bill Pinches

+HYMN: GTG #100

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)"

+BLESSING

Rom. 15:13

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Alleluia!

+CHARGE

Matt. 3:3

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Amen!

+CHORAL BENEDICTION "Creation Will Be at Peace"

arr. Page

POSTLUDE

"Prelude No. 8" Debussy

You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Children's Presentation written by Lori Filka
Liturgist: Emelia Hammond
Greeters: Debi and Mike Buchman
Sound: Marty Subject
Livestream: Tami Chapman
Security: Tim Hammond

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#64. Rome:

In Rome and under house arrest, Paul continues spreading the Gospel for two years, meeting with curious Jews while he awaits his trial.
(Acts 28:17-17-31) (AD 60-62)

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 119. Can you obey these commandments perfectly?

No. I am at once a forgiven *sinner* and a *forgiven* sinner. As a sinner without excuse, I fail to obey these commandments as God requires. "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it" (James 2:10). I should not adjust the law to my failures, nor reduce my failures before God. Yet there is more grace in God than sin in me. While I should not cease to pray to God for mercy, I can be confident that God is forgiving and that I will be set free from all my sins. By grace I can confess my sins, repent of them, and grow in love and knowledge day by day.

CREDITS

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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
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
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
Office Assistant: Nancy Sue MacDonald
Sexton: Eric VanDyke
Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey
Child Care: Jill Castle, Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons

ELDERS

Class of 2023: Bruce Archer (clerk), Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.
Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
Class of 2025: Doreen Chapman, Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.
Elders-Elect: Bruce Archer, Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

DEACONS

Class of 2023: Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock.
Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
Class of 2025: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely.
Deacons-Elect: Ron Dlouhy, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald

DAILY PRAYER

Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2018)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today	Adult Sunday School	11:15 am
Wednesday	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:30 am
	Prayer Fellowship	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday (children/youth)	4:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm
Thursday	Choir rehearsal	7:10 pm
	Session	7:00 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	

BIRTHDAYS

Mary Lou French Dec. 17
Jay Harkness Dec. 23

**Mason
First Presbyterian Church**

December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent



Virgin Annunciate
by Antonello da Messina, c. 1472

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