



North Presbyterian Church

"Let us stir one another up to love and good deeds" – Hebrews 10.24

Through the rich diversity of God's people, and our heritage as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) we express the faith of Christ, seeking to model in our life together the Beloved Community.

Together we are ambassadors for Christ: **joining** together to praise, **standing** together in service, **marching** together for justice, **praying** together for peace.

Second Sunday in Advent December 4, 2016

Prelude

Hymn #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

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Call to Worship

Minister The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Minister Let us worship God.

A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Minister Praise the Lord.

All **The Lord's name be praised.**

Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin

All **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.

Hymn #555

Agnus Dei

All **O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hymn #581

Gloria Patri

All **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10 NRSV

Reader A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #149

Psalms 72

1. All hail to God's anointed, great David's greater Son!
All hail, in time appointed, your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression and rule in equity.
2. You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in your sight.

3. You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
4. All rulers bow before you, and gold and incense bring.
All nations shall adore you; your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend.
Your rule is still increasing; your rule is without end.

Epistle

Romans 15:4-13 NRSV

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

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.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #95

Prepare the Way of the Lord

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Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12 NRSV

Reader The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the

prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn #96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
4. Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

The Peace

Minister The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Offering

Hymn #606

Doxology

All **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.**

Minister Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

All **Blessed be God forever.**

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Hymn #552

Sanctus and Benedictus

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Hymn #600

Amen

The LORD's PRAYER

All **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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

PRAYER after Communion

Charge and Blessing

Minister The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always.

All **Alleluia! Amen.**

Hymn #750

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

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Postlude

North Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 2185, Kalamazoo, MI 49003 * (269) 569-4800
www.WeAreNorth.org * Email: northchurchoffice@gmail.com

Announcements

Joint Worship: NPC & FCC – Christmas Eve (4pm & 11pm), Rev. Nathan Dannison preaching.
Christmas Morning (10am), Rev. Barrett Lee preaching. Wear your pajamas to church! No worship in the chapel that day.
Christmas brunch to follow.

Soup & Caroling – December 4 (Sun), 4pm. Meet at FCC, upstairs in Mary/Martha Room.

Organ Recital – December 6 (Tues), 7pm in sanctuary.

A Night in Bethlehem – December 11 (Sun), 4pm. Kids Christmas Program @ FCC.

Moravian Love Feast – December 18 (Sun), 6pm @ FCC.

Longest Night – December 21 (Wed), 8pm. Special holiday service for those who are grieving.

Church Night Supper – Thursdays, 5:30pm, at FCC.

Recovery, Inc. – Tuesdays, 12pm. Mental Health support group @ FCC

Freedom Group – Wednesdays, 7pm. Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 12-Step support group @ FCC.

Spiritual Formation – Sundays, 9am, upstairs in the Mary/Martha Room. Class by Rev. Nathan Dannison.

Resiliency Group – Sundays, 9am, upstairs in the Youth Room. Class on resiliency by a social worker.

Bible Study – 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10am in the library @ FCC.

Study Group – Thursdays, 1pm, at Stadium Drive Apartments (4249 Lakesedge Dr).

We are reading together *The Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis. Copies available for \$10. See Pastor Barrett.

Potluck Lunch – December 11, immediately after worship. Downstairs dining room at FCC. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Congregational Leadership Team – Joint meeting of Session and Deacons. Third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting: December 21, 5:30pm. Christmas Party.

Morning Prayer – In the Chapel at St. Luke's Episcopal (247 W Lovell St). Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am.

Togetherness Group – (269) 569-3826

Upcoming Activities

Date	Activity	Pickup Time
12/6	Dollar Store	12:30-1:30
12/13	Christmas Card Party	12:30-1:30
12/20	Light Tour	5:30-6:30
1/10	Old Country Buffet	10:30-11:30
1/17	Bingo	12:30-1:30
1/24	Movies	12:30-1:30
1/31	Lunch	10:30-11:30

December Birthdays: December- 8 – Carolyn Ruth, 10 – Jean Fontaine, 20 – David Circosta, 21 – Wade King-MacDonald

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