



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.

Third Sunday in Advent December 11, 2016

Prelude

Hymn #105

People, Look East

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Call to Worship

Minister The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Minister Let us worship God.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

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 35:1-10 NRSV

Reader The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #100

Canticle of the Turning (Magnificat)

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Epistle

James 5:7-10 NRSV

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not

be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

1. Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.
2. Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
3. Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11 NRSV

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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 #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.
3. You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

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

Sursum Corda

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 #702 *Christ Be Beside Me (Lorica of St. Patrick)*

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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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