

F i r s t 

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Presbyterian

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Church of Monroe

December 31, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161  
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[www.monroefirst.org](http://www.monroefirst.org)

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and to proclaim his salvation in worship, education, and outreach.

# First Sunday after Christmas Day

*\*We invite all who are able to stand where there is an asterisk.*

## OPENING WORDS

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you people!

**Break out into joyful praises!**

God's Word has become flesh and lives among us.

**And we have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son.**

## PRELUDE

“Silent Night”

Robert A. Hobby

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.

**On those who dwell in a dark place the light will shine.**

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given.

**And the government will rest on his shoulders.**

**And his name will be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**

**Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**

He is born today.

**God is among us: Immanuel.**

## \*OPENING HYMN #143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is righteous and just to forgive and cleanse us. Let us confess our sins together.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us. You are the light shining into our darkness. You are the face of God. You are the counselor, the guide, the everlasting King. But we confess that we have not welcomed this light. We have questioned the good news. We have made excuses. We have concocted our own solutions and hoped for less than you want to give. Forgive our doubt, our blind self-confidence, our rugged pride. Open our hearts and eyes to see that you are the solution and the answer to our questions.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN #579

“Lord, Have Mercy”

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord

is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven.

**The Lord has forgiven our sins  
and cleanses us of all unrighteousness.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF AFFIRMATION #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

*Children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger are welcome to continue worship in the Wee  
Believers Room, #159.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Isaiah 52:7-12

OT p. 683

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

“Gesù Bambino”

Pierre Yon

Kathryn Dunkelberger, Soprano

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter's night was born the  
Christmas Rose, King of Love and Light. The angels sang, shepherds sang, the  
grateful earth rejoiced, and at his blessed birth the stars the exultation voiced. O  
come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Again the heart with rapture grows to greet  
the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, it's King of Love and Light.  
Let every voice, acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell, from paradise to earth  
he came that we with him might dwell. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Now is Christmas Done?”

HYMN #128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

OFFERING *Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry.*

OFFERTORY SOLO “In the Manger”  
Charlotte Frary, Handbell Solo

\*DOXOLOGY ★606

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**O God, full of compassion, I commit and commend myself to you, in whom I am and live and have my being. Take what is yours and return to me the gift of your presence in joy and love.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with man. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, man, and the world. Therefore, the church calls men to be reconciled to God and to one another.**

*--From The Confession of 1967*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN #147

“The First Nowell”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.  
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord, the Newborn King.  
In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #105

“People, Look East”

v. 5

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is born today.*

POSTLUDE

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Robert Hobby

**TODAY**

**Sunday Fellowship in Fellowship Hall**

After worship, please come to the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments.

**Contributions for 2017**

Please make your contributions for the 2017 tax year no later than today, **December 31** in order to receive a tax credit. Thank you kindly.

**Poinsettia Pick-Up**

Please remember to pick up your poinsettia from the church sanctuary. Once again, thank you for enhancing our worship space this Christmas and Advent season with your purchase of a poinsettia.

**Welcome to FPC of Monroe!**

We are glad you are here today! We hope you find this a community of faith where you experience God in Jesus Christ. Childcare is always provided on Sunday mornings and the nursery is located near the parking lot entrance of the church. Hearing assistance is available.

**New Year's Office Hours**

The church office will be closed tomorrow, **January 1** for New Year's Day.

**Bible Study on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** Come and join us for Bible Study. It starts up again this week.

### **Adult Education Classes**

Next Sunday, **January 7**, Pastor Annemarie will facilitate about the Epiphany and the Three Wise Men. On Sunday, **January 14** we are going to start a three week series about Baptism (the Lord's and Our's), Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and Spiritual Gifts with Tom Bajkiewicz facilitating. Please join us!

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will start meeting weekly on Tuesday, **January 2**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Library. On **January 9**, they will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Library.

### **Unhanging of the Greens**

After worship on Sunday, **January 7** we will take down the Christmas decorations. Please stay after church to help and invite a friend. A light lunch will be provided.

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee will be meeting next Sunday, **January 7** at 12:15 p.m.

### **Martha Mary Circle**

The next meeting is on Monday, **January 8** in the Cairl Room.

### **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a congregational meeting on **January 14** at 12:15 p.m. to accept the final nominations for the office of deacon and elder.

### **Deacons**

The deacons will be meeting at Panera Bread to express our gratitude to the outgoing class of deacons on **January 14**, at 12:30 p.m.

### **Aeolian Chorale Performs January 14**

The Dearborn - based select Aeolian Chorale will perform in our sanctuary on the afternoon of Sunday, **January 14** at 4:00 pm. Formed in 2014 to perform as a fundraiser for the restoration of the Aeolian - Skinner Organ at Christ Lutheran Church in Dearborn, the Chorale has continued to perform in various churches since its founding. It is conducted by Marshall Dicks, conductor and tenor soloist. The program will include repertoire from its December Christmas program. There will be a freewill offering taken.

## **Prayer Team**

Lois Barnes is heading up the Prayer Team. Please direct any prayer requests to her. You may text or call Lois at 419-308-0262.

## **Winter Room Use**

Please remember to turn down the thermostat after your meetings to help conserve energy.

## **Sermons**

Printed copies of the weekly sermon are available in the church office in the mailbox labeled Sermons.

## **Pledge cards**

Please remember to fill out your pledge card and drop it in the offering plate. Blank pledge cards are available in the narthex, from the ushers, or in the church office. Thank you very much!

## **Pastoral Care**

Pastor Annemarie will be out of the office beginning December 25 through January 1. She will return on Tuesday, **January 2**. For immediate pastoral care needs during that time, please call the church office or the moderators of deacons, Donna and Dallas Dieckmann (734) 242-8659.

### **Staff:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **Director of Music Ministry:** Susan Barker;

**Financial Secretary:** Suzanne Bondie; **Administrative Assistant:** Sara Jones;

**Sexton:** Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Suzanne Bondie, Amy Morgan;

**Custodian:** Sean Farris

**Pastors Emeriti:** Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley

**Liturgist:** Helyn Schroeder

**Ushers:** Kay and John Gawle; Liz Cunningham; and Marilyn Marshall

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These readings are from the Lectionary. We invite you to take time each day to read the Bible passages in preparation for Sunday morning.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 2:22-40</b>	<b>Jesus presented in the temple</b>
Monday	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
Tuesday	Galatians 4:4-7	Adoption as God's children
Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	For everything a season
Thursday	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Now is the time of salvation
Friday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord is doing a new thing
Saturday	Psalms 148	All creation praises God
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:4-11</b>	<b>Baptism of Christ</b>

## **THIS WEEK**

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
MONDAY		NEW YEARS DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff Meeting
	2:00	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting (Library)
	5:00	No Rhythmic Ringers
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	1:00	Deacons Visit
	1:00	Sparklers
	6:00	Bible Study (Library)
	6:30	Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study (Cairl Room)
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education Class
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Unhanging of the Greens
	12:15	Nominating Committee