



*Worshiping, serving, and living with a fresh vision of
God's vibrant energy and grace for all.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Advent
Even in Our Fear, We are Called Forward
December 14, 2025 // 10am

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER:

Inhale: When I feel uncertain,

Exhale: steady my convictions.

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING

One: The God of life be with you.

All: And also with you!

GATHERING SONG #89 *For You O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bruce Rosensteel

One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

All: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

One: Mary said, "How can this be?"

All: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

All: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God's invitation.

All: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

***HYMN** #83 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

FPC Orchestra

**Please stand if you are comfortable doing so. _____*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”
we often hide our faces.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we move forward in hope, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Don’t Be Afraid*

All: Don’t be afraid!
My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fears.
Don’t be afraid!
My love is stronger,
and I have promised,
promised to be always near.

MUSIC

Carol

FPC Orchestra

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 1: 4 - 10

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1: 26 - 39

One: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Yes to the Unknown"

Rev. Cathy C. Hoop

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: We have seen the valley.

All: We have seen a sky without stars.

**We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.**

One: We believe in God-with-us.

All: We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

One: We believe this good news is for all people.

**All: So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.**

One: We will reach for each other.

We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim:

All: Unto us, love is born.

**We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe. Amen.**

***HYMN** *No Wind at the Window* (insert)

FPC Orchestra

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

LIFE AT FIRST

Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you. If you have a prayer request, you are invited to fill out a prayer card (found in the pew-backs) and put it in the offering plate. The ushers will deliver it to the pastors.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

arr Charles Lindberg, Christina Krause

***DOXOLOGY** #606

FPC Orchestra

All: Praise God whose image we all bear.
Praise Christ whose mercy we all share.
Praise Spirit making justice grow.
One God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call.
In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and
share the promise of redemption.
Empower us to live fully present, to give generously and to act justly.
Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your
kin-dom.
Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator," "Our Mother," or "Our Parent."

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.

***HYMN** *Prepare the Way* (insert)

FPC Orchestra

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG *Blessing*

Susan and Lee Dengler

Liturgy created by, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis, FPC Choir,
Rose Gifford, Christina Krause, Helen Teutsch, Nora Teutsch, Will Rund,
Ben Van Kempen, Gary Smith, Christin McFadyen, Rob Colten, Eli Edwards-Parker,
Erin Magennis, Sarah Anderson, Janet Morrow, Jan Brashler, Darren Parker,
Bruce Rosensteel, FPC Choir.

Thanks to: Sound and Video Tim Richardson, Greeter and Ushers, Bus Drivers,
M&M Café Providers, Kiki Leman and Nursery Care Providers

Our worshipping community extends beyond our sanctuary.
Let us hold in our prayers the following members:

Ellen Cuthbertson – Grand Pines Assisted Living
Lenore & Gordon DePree – Farmstead Assisted Living
Dean Effken – Riley's Grove in Zeeland
Bill Evenson - Home
Judy & Jack Faber – Farmstead Assisted Living
Mickey & Neal Harris - home
JoAnn Karn – MediLodge (Rm 301)
Marianne & David McBeth - home
Jeanine Roberts – Home
Carolyn Russell – Resthaven Maplewoods

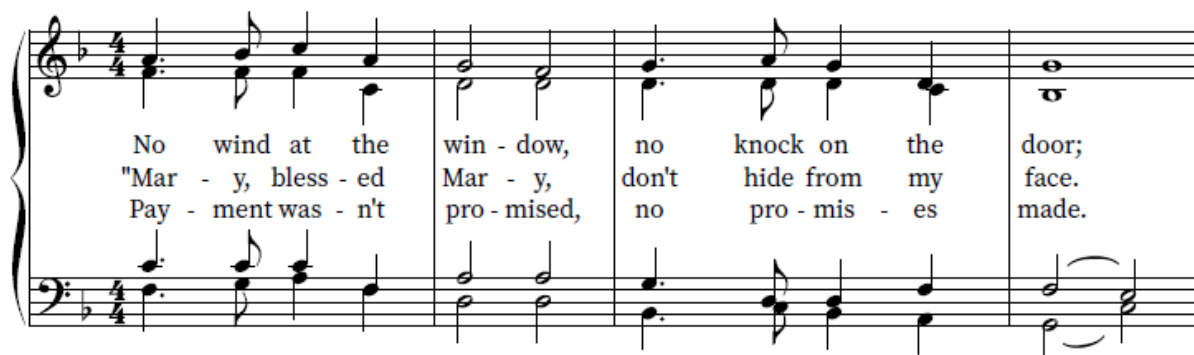
Phil Sturdevant – Resthaven Care Center
Mary Ann & Mike Van Houzen - Home
Sue & Don Williams - Freedom Village
Ron Williams – Michigan Veteran's Home,
Grand Rapids

If you know of someone who should be
added to this list, please contact the
church office.

No Wind at the Window

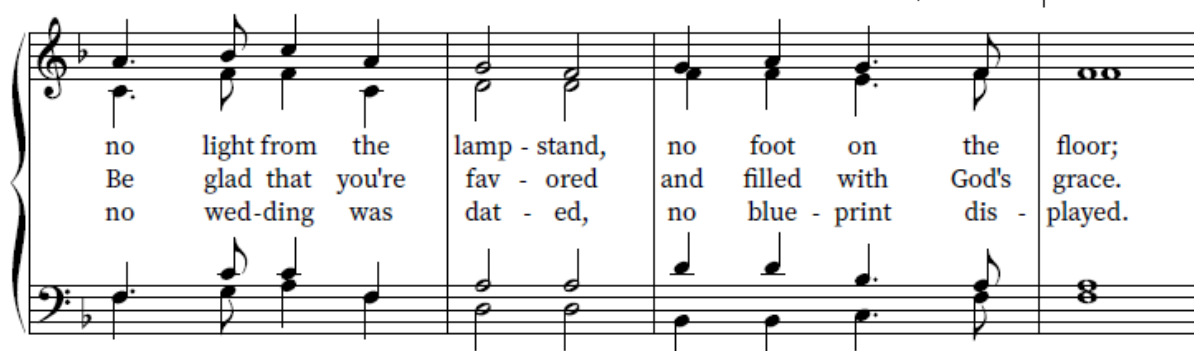
John L. Bell

Holst



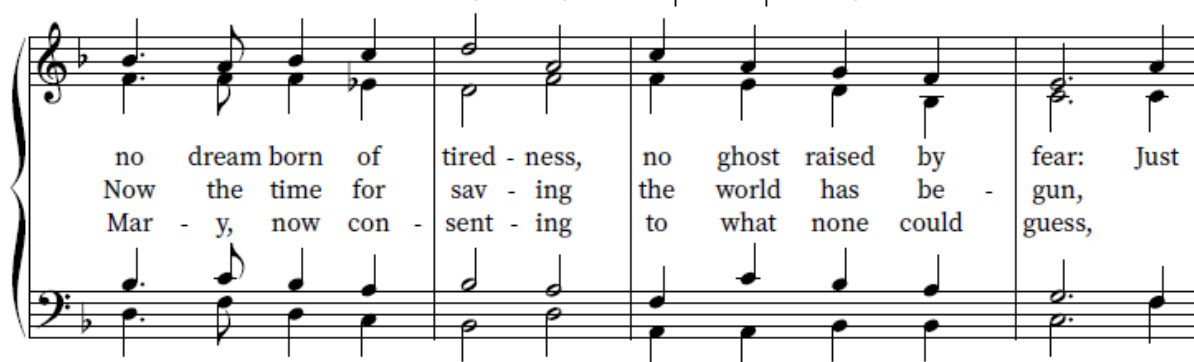
First system of musical notation. The treble and bass staves are in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
"Mar - y, bless - ed Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
Pay - ment was - n't pro - mised, no pro - mis - es made.



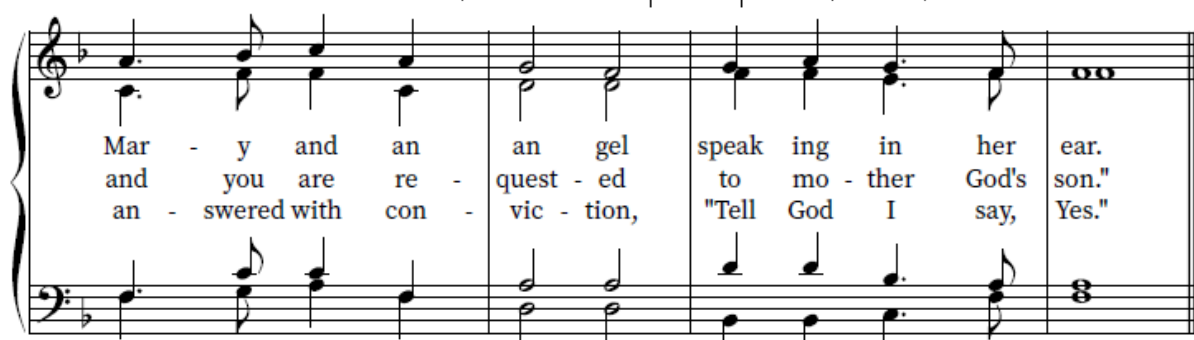
Second system of musical notation. The treble and bass staves are in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're fav - ored and filled with God's grace.
no wed-ding was dat - ed, and no blue - print dis - played.



Third system of musical notation. The treble and bass staves are in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear: Just
Now the time for sav - ing the world has be - gun,
Mar - y, now con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



Fourth system of musical notation. The treble and bass staves are in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Mar - y and an an - gel speak ing in her ear.
and you are re - quest - ed to mo - ther God's son."
an - swered with con - vic - tion, "Tell God I say, Yes."

Prepare the Way with Quietness

David Bjorlin

Buchanan

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in five systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains five lines of lyrics, the second and third systems contain four lines each, and the fourth system contains three lines. The lyrics are: 'Pre - pare the way with qui - et - ness, a', 'Pre - pare the way with hope - ful words some', 'Pre - pare the way through hold - ing back while', 'Pre - pare the way with fer - vent love that', 'Pre - pare the way un - til we reach the', 'still - ness in the storm, that will not speak the', 'mock but oth - ers crave, that makes the em - pire', 'oth - ers grasp and strain for un - just wealth and', 'tears down walls of hate and re - con - structs a', 'dawn of that new day when all our paths con -', 'wound - ing words that cheap - en or de - form.', 'flinch in fear and turn the fear - ful brave.', 'un - tamed power that add to hu - man pain.', 'kind - er world that jus - tice can cre - ate.', 'verge in Christ, and we have found our way.'

Pre - pare the way with qui - et - ness, a
Pre - pare the way with hope - ful words some
Pre - pare the way through hold - ing back while
Pre - pare the way with fer - vent love that
Pre - pare the way un - til we reach the

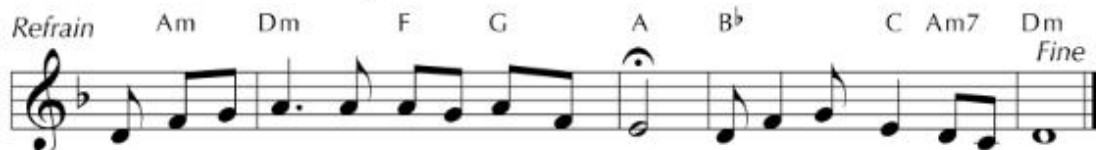
still - ness in the storm, that will not speak the
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oth - ers grasp and strain for un - just wealth and
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dawn of that new day when all our paths con -

wound - ing words that cheap - en or de - form.
flinch in fear and turn the fear - ful brave.
un - tamed power that add to hu - man pain.
kind - er world that jus - tice can cre - ate.
verge in Christ, and we have found our way.

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

My Soul in Stillness Waits

89



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



- 1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
- 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
- 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;
- 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;
- 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us
and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -
we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to
let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are
Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.
whole, be com - fort to our hearts.
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
us the path - way of your peace.
all the peo - ple of God's hand.
stars, and pres - ent to us now.

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed // Looking for a few people to help with communion preparation. It just involves cutting up gluten free bread & putting the plates of bread & chalices of grape juice on the communion table. There is some clean-up after the service. Training would be provided. It would be 2-3 Sundays a year. If you are willing to help you can contact Lori in the office or Mary Blackall at maryblackall9@gmail .com or 616-212-5346.

Advent Study // Our study of *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen continues this Sunday. (11:15 in the Michigan Room.) This week we will discuss chapter 3 .Contact Pastor Cathy if you are interested in participating in this class via Zoom.

Service of Longest Night // Wednesday, **December 17** at 5pm. The Christmas season brings joy and sorrow, hope and stress. Please join us for this time of worship as we acknowledge the realities of our lives. Whether you are missing a loved one or just overwhelmed by the Christmas rush, we invite you to be with us for a time of honesty and hope.

Christmas Concert // Holland High School singing group, *The Vocal Dimensions* invites the public to a free concert at First Reformed Church on Monday, December 15th at 11:30am. *All are welcome*

Christmas Performance // We “triple dog dare you” to come see Daphne, Nora and Helen Teutsch in, *A Christmas Story!* Enjoy this musical adaptation of the classic and beloved Christmas film! Event dates are December 18-21. Tickets are available at stageGR.simpleTIX.com

Christmas Service Times

Join us in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child!

**Wednesday, December 24,
Christmas Eve:**

3pm Family Christmas Eve Service with Communion
(This service is not a children’s Christmas program,
but rather a service designed for children and their families.)

5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Confirmation Class Meals // Our Confirmation class continues to meet over the next few months on Sunday afternoon from 12-1:30pm. We have three confirmands and their mentors -a group of seven, including Pastor Paul. **We're inviting members of the congregation to provide a meal for the group** - either by bringing something from home or picking up takeout. It's a simple but meaningful way to support our youth and their mentors as they grow in faith together. If you'd like to provide a meal, please sign up at the Outreach Desk.

Charity Sew-In Opportunity // Tuesday, January 20th, 10 am – 3 pm at FPC. Big Red Quilters' Guild (BRQG) of Holland is grateful to First Presbyterian Church for the opportunity to have some storage and meeting space for their Outreach Committee. The BRQG Outreach Committee and BRQG members make quilts to donate to Lakeshore Pregnancy, Hope Packages, Resilience and sometimes others as need arises. The guild members donated 110 quilts January – July of 2025!

The BRQG Outreach Committee would like to invite First Presbyterian members who like to sew to their Sew-In event on Tuesday, January 20, from 10-3 downstairs in the fellowship hall. Or just stop in to say, hi and see what it's all about! There will be fabric and kits available to sew, you can make a few blocks or work on a whole quilt. Bring your own machine and sewing basics if you want to sew. There will also be opportunity to help by ironing blocks, and cutting fabrics for kits. We will have irons and ironing boards available but if you want to cut, you will need to bring your cutting mat and rotary cutter. If you have any questions, contact Janet Haines. 989-400-2998 or janethaines24@gmail.com.

Talent Show // FPC will be hosting a Talent/ Untalent Show on Jan 25, 2026 at 3pm. You can perform by yourself, by couples, or groups doing skits, musical instruments, singing, ect. Presentations need to be five minutes or less. For those that are not stage performers, there will be an opportunity to display your talents, such as quilting, painting, woodworking, ect. Watch for more information to come along with sign up sheets.

Save the Date // The Annual Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 28 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Holland. Our speaker will be Rev. Barb Schreur. We would love to have you join us! Invite a friend to share the day with you! Brochure including a registration form will be available in January. Online registration will also be available on the FPC website. Stay tuned for more information.

STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop
Paul Van Kempen

Lori Lepard
Marlene Field
Lori Klinesteker

Jane Oosterhouse
Thom Samuelson
Sue Stock

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Associate Pastor and
Director of Music
Administrative Assistant
Bookkeeper
Clerk of Session &
Children's Ministry Leader
Custodian
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Jane@fpcholland.org
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DEACONS:

Class of 2026: Tom Glover, Terri Schamper

Class of 2027: Kristin Goddard, Lloyd Helder,
Michele Richardson, Leah Wallar

Class of 2028: Cathy Colten, Gail Hering,
Fred Mc Conkey

ELDERS:

Class of 2026: Carleen Bauer, Bill Evenson
Cassie Kregger, Bruce Rosensteel, Tim Staal

Class of 2027: Jen Laux Ludwig, Tom Salley

Class of 2028: Jon Kreple, Lauren Stouffer,
Chris Urbaniak

Children's Programming During Worship:

Children of all ages are encouraged and welcome to be with us during worship. If you prefer an alternative:

- Nursery: Newborn - 3 years of age. Available for the whole service.
- Celebration Time - 4 years of age through 1st grade. Available after Children's Time.

Education Offerings After Worship:

Education hour is from 11:15a -12:00p. *All are welcome to participate!*

- Adult Class - Michigan Room
- Youth - Youth Room
- Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade
- Nursery - Newborn through 3 years

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

659 State St., Holland, Michigan 49423 / Office: (616) 392-9022 / Email: office@fpcholland.org



FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of the PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at MLP.org