



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
A Celebration in Scripture, Poetry and Song
December 28, 2025 // 10am

CENTERING WORDS:

“This is the irrational season, when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason, there’d be no room for the child.
~ Madeleine L’Engle

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,

All: We speak of love.

One: We speak of joy.

All: We speak of candlelight and fireside.

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

All: We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.

One: We speak the words, “Do not be afraid.”

**All: Here on the heels of Christmas,
we are called to speak, for the world needs a light.**

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, we often live as if You are not with us,
not even near us, but distant and far away.

All: We forget that You dwell within us and among us.

One: We forget that You came into our world and our lives as one of us,

**All: You know the great joys and the struggles we face,
the challenges and the desires, the fears and the hopes.**

One: May we remember anew that You have come to us,

All: vulnerable as any of us to the world,

One: to set us free from sin and death,

All: to lead us into new life, eternal life.

**In the name of Christ, who has come,
who is among us, and who will come again,
we pray all things. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Christ-child be with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM /MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Psalm 96: 7 – 9

Hush

Lucinda Hynett

Sssh.

Can you hear it?
An expectant silence,
a hushed anticipation,
as if the very galaxy
is holding its breath.
There are some truths
even the stars know,
like darkness,
like loneliness
and how the night
can be a living thing.
And how once, long ago,
the night waited in wonder
along with the darkness
and the loneliness,
for the sound of a baby's cry,
for the miraculous
to come down
to the earth mundane.

HYMN

SECOND READING Luke 1: 46-55

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace
among the people.
To make music
in the heart!

HYMN

THIRD READING Isaiah 11: 6-9

Making the House Ready for the Lord

Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed
but still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you.

Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do?

And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do?

And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do?

Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard
and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door.

And still I believe you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

MUSIC

FOURTH READING John 1: 1 – 14

Perhaps the Light

Jan Richardson

If we thought the light
was done.

If we thought the gift of it
had gone.

If we thought it had turned
Its grace from us,
spent by our resistance,
undone by distance
and time.

But if perhaps
we wait.

If perhaps
we turn
and watch

If perhaps
we let ourselves breathe

At last
in receiving and
release,
one, two, three,
a million.

If perhaps
we learn
that the light knows
how to bend
how to endure
long after first given,
how to circle back,
in generous, luminous
return.

If perhaps
the light does not
end.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness can never smother it.

One: I believe that long ago on a night in Bethlehem

All: there was born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

One: I believe in the Word who has become incarnate,

All: our very flesh and blood, yet full of grace and truth.

One: I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

All: Everlasting Father, and Prince of peace;

This I surely believe!

***HYMN**

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

***DOXOLOGY #606**

**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: Holy God of Christmas, may the joy of giving that has filled our hearts this week move us to share our offerings to you with love. Use these gifts in every way to bring your compassion and grace to those who suffer and who live on the margins. 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**

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Worship Leaders: Rev. Cathy Hoop, Rev. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis,
FPC Choir, Rose Gifford

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

Our worshiping 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****NEED TO UPDATE****

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.

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

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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

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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