

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

9:00 a.m.

*Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.*

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

## Our Approach to God

Prelude                      God Rest You Merry                      R. Groom te Velde

The Call to Worship & The Lighting of the Advent Wreath – the Candle of Joy

We gather as the people of God, responding to God's call to worship.

**We gather to give God all our praise and adoration.**

**We gather with expectant hearts.**

On the night of Jesus' birth, the glory of the Lord shone bright in the darkness as an angel proclaimed to the shepherds, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

**We worship God, rejoicing in the blessing of this good news.**

**We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

[Lighting of the Advent candles.] His coming is good news of great joy!

**All glory and praise be to God!**

\*The Hymn                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*                      41

\*The Call to Confession

In this season of Advent, let us prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior as we confess our sin to God.

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, we praise you for the joy in the good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of his return. We confess how easily we lose your joy in our lives. We forget all that you have done for us, losing out on the joy in remembering your many blessings down through the generations. We try to find joy in the festivities of this season, forgetting that these things are empty without you. We seek after the joy of earthly things, failing to seek after you. Forgive us, Lord.**

[Silent confession.] **Merciful God, fill us with your joy as we wait for your coming. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

\*The Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: that Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners. In Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

\*The Response      *Angels We Have Heard on High*, chorus                      23  
**"Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo"**

The Anthem                      Magnificat in C Minor                      G. Dyson

## The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading                      Luke 1:39-56                      page 1457

The Sermon                      *Blessed by the Good News*                      Pastor Ruth Estell

## Our Response to Serve

\*The Affirmation of Faith      The Apostles' Creed (traditional)                      hymnal page 14

\*The Hymn                      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*                      28

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)

**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.**

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory                      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      G. Phillips

\*The Doxology      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*, verse 4                      22

**All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!**

\*The Prayer of Dedication

\*The Hymn                    *Angels We Have Heard on High*                    23

\*The Charge and Benediction

\*The Congregational Response    *Go with Us, Lord*                    535  
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.**

\*Postlude                    Fugue sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733                    J.S. Bach

\* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.  
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**Liturgist and Advent Wreath Lighters:** Billie Bauer, Peggy Knutson, Kathy Salak, and Karen Schadel  
**Ushers:** Brian & Cathy McNalley, Patty Donohue, and Randy Wierda  
**Greeters:** Betty Leaym and Alice Winchester  
**Fellowship Hour Host:** Mary Smith  
**Musical Talent:** Thomas Heidenreich, Director of Music Ministry, and the Chancel Choir

**For The Hearing Impaired**

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds and listen at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

**Please join us immediately following worship in the gathering area for refreshments and fellowship.**

Songs and broadcast are covered by:  
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# Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603  
Phone: (989) 792-1023  
December 15, 2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

# Joy

*Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.*

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

\*\*\*The Session will meet Tuesday, December 17 @ 7:00 p.m.\*\*\*



Please remain in the sanctuary following worship today. The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing the new Elders and approving the Terms of Call for Pastor Ruth.

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH: A Sing-Along

You are invited to celebrate the Christmas season by attending the *Messiah* sing-along at First Presbyterian Church **TODAY @ 4:00 p.m.** The evening will conclude with the Hallelujah Chorus. Invite your friends, singers or not. Plan to come, and hear the Christmas story through song; you will certainly find yourself humming along at least occasionally!



JOIN US ON TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE, AT  
4:30 P.M. FOR A SERVICE OF  
LESSONS AND CAROLS



## Inclement Weather Policy

When Saginaw Township Schools have been closed due to inclement weather (snow, ice, temperatures, etc.), any church programming for that day will also be cancelled. This includes any activity of the church or outside groups that use church facilities. Examples are (but not limited to): Session, Committee meetings, Choirs, Bible Study, Women's Circle, Community events.



In the Mission Corner there is a "Box of Blessings" where you can leave small personal care items like the toothpaste & toothbrushes we often get at dental cleanings, or other small items you might find on sale & pick up. These will be added to the periodic food pantry collections.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 22 at the 9:00 a.m. service. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. There are Christmas Joy envelopes in the pews, but you may also specify that your offering is for Christmas Joy.



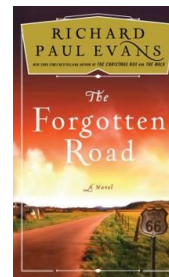
## 2024 End of Year Contributions



The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2024) to claim a deduction for 2024. Giving in 2025 and predating a check for 2024 does not qualify for a 2024 deduction.

## February Book Group

**The Forgotten Road by Richard Paul Evans** is the second book in the Broken Road Trilogy. Book one, "The Broken Road," was the choice for the October Book Group.



"Chicago celebrity and successful pitchman Charles James is supposed to be dead. Everyone believes he was killed in a fiery plane crash. But thanks to a remarkable twist of fate, he's very much alive and ready for a second chance at life—and love."

Sonia will place a bulk book order on Monday, January 6, so please sign your name on the sheet in the gathering area if you'd like a book ordered for you. We will meet Sunday, February 9 @ 1:00 p.m. to discuss the book, enjoy some fellowship and treats. No need to sign up, just show up!