



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CHAPEL LANE!

“Growing a Faith That Must Be Shared”

Dec. 3, 2017 **First Sunday of Advent/Hope Sunday** 10:00 AM

Communion Sunday

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

* Please stand, if you are able

Prelude Music *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* D. Wagner
Youth Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome, friends. We're so glad you came to join us in our worship of God today. As we ready our hearts for worship, let us meditate on this prayer:

Dear God, As we begin our Advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope.

Hope for your presence, Hope for your peace, Hope for your promise. Amen.

(Please sign the Fellowship Pad and use the prayer request cards for your joys/concerns.)

Call to Worship and Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle *(Based on Psalm 80, The Voice trans.)*

Turn Your ear toward us, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead *the children of Joseph* like a flock.

You who sit enthroned above heaven's winged creatures, radiate Your light!

(Light the 1st Advent Candle)

Arouse Your strength and power, and give us hope!

Bring us back to You, God.

Turn the light of Your face upon us so that we will be rescued from this sea of darkness.

O God, Commander of heaven's armies, bring us back to You.

Gaze down from heaven and see what has happened.

Keep watch over this vine, and nourish it.

Look after the saplings which You planted with Your own right hand,

The child whom You have raised and nurtured for Yourself.

Then we will not turn away from You.

Bring us back to life! And we will call out for You!

(Sung Response: Star-Child STF #2095, vs. 1)

**Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Song** *“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”* #104

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us, even from ourselves. Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you and, in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. *(Silent Prayer of Confession)*

Prayer Response *“Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me”* #71

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

* **Response of Praise** *“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”* #143 (vs. 4)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson **I Corinthians 1:3-9** **NRSV pg. 1038**

Response: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson **Mark 13:24-37** **NRSV pg. 925**

Response: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Called Into Partnership”

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH JOY

* Song of Response *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* #82

***Affirmation of Faith**

Together we confess that God unites us in faith. Together we come to know the height, and the breadth, and the depth of the love of Christ. Together we are built up to the full stature of Christ. Together we know and bear one another’s burdens. We admonish one another. We comfort one another. We suffer with one another. We need one another. We build up one another. Together we pray. Together we serve God in this world. Together we fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity. Thanks be to God for this good news. Amen.

Offering of our Gifts

Offertory

“Oh, Come, Divine Messiah”

D. Grotenhuis

Chancel Choir

*Oh, come, divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness shall flee away.
Dear Savior, haste! Come to earth, dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail, bid us hail, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*Joy shall come even to the wilderness, and the parched land shall then know
Great gladness; as the rose shall deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water, in the desert,
In the desert streams shall flow, streams shall flow.*

*You come in peace and meekness and lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness shall we your blessed God head see.
Dear Savior haste! Come to earth. Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail, bid us hail. And bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

Public Domain. Abbe Pellegrin, 1663-1745.

* Offertory Response *“Doxology for Christmas”* (Traditional Tune)

*Praise God, whose dawn transfigures night, whose Daystar shines for us on high,
Whose Spirit brings into our sight, the hope which to our world draws nigh. Amen.*

* Prayer of Dedication of our Offerings

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

* Communion Song *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”* #347

The Communion of the People of God

The Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The 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 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.

The Words of Institution

The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

The Communion of the People of God

The Prayer After Communion

WE GO OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

* Sending Song *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”* #93

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response *“Soon and Very Soon”* #384 (vs. 1)

*Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!*

* Postlude

OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED, OUR SERVICE BEGINS!

Questions for Reflection

The weeks leading to Christmas are often filled with much activity.

Staying “awake” may not be the problem—

in fact, we may feel there are not enough hours in the day!

Yet, Mark counsels us to be awake to, to pay attention to, what is most needed for our well-being and the well-being of the world:

God’s presence, God’s appearing among us.

Here at the beginning of Advent, how will you “keep alert” for God?

Did you know?

Did you know that this year’s Advent Devotional, *Let Love Speak*, published by Presbyterians Today, contains a collection of challenging daily reflections and prayers based on the Psalms to help us experience the promise and power of Christ’s coming? Jesus, the Word Incarnate, asks us to speak and act in more just and loving ways, especially towards the strangers and foreigners among us?

The Readiness Prayer is reprinted by permission from Katherine Hawker’s Advent Resources @ www.liturgyoutside.net. The Gathering Prayer is based on an old Celtic liturgy for Advent. The Prayer for Illumination is used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, © 2014. The Affirmation of Faith was compiled by Barbara Hedges-Goettl and reprinted from the PC(USA)’s Office of Theology & Worship webpage; used with permission.

Welcome Friends! If you are new in the area or looking for a church home, we hope you will consider becoming a part of this community of faith. Please use the Fellowship Pad to note your presence with us and the welcome card to help us serve you better. **There is a large- print Bible and handheld hearing devices on the table at the back of the sanctuary and also in the foyer for anyone who needs them.**

Please be advised: Videos, audiotapes, and photographs may be taken during worship and other church activities for broad use (including the Internet), and that by attending you consent to this and to the broad use described. **If you do not wish to have your photo taken and/or published on our website**, please send a request in writing to office@chapellane.org or Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church, 5501 Jefferson Ave., Midland, MI 48640.

Children in Worship: We have ***Worship Bags*** in the back of the sanctuary containing worship aids for children: Blue-handled bags for older children, red-handled bags for younger. Please return them to the floor below the rack at the end of the service. We have a staffed ***nursery*** for children infant through first grade (older children may use the nursery and playground if accompanied by an adult). During the school year, we offer ***Children’s Church*** for kids from kindergarten through 6th grade on most Sundays. Children will remain for part of worship and will be dismissed part way through the service to a time geared toward them.

Tape Ministry: Each week our worship service is taped and sent to our homebound members and friends. This is a ministry of our Deacons. If you would like more information, please contact Harry White (692-2059).

Bulletin Announcements: Bulletin announcements are listed **two weeks** prior to an event. For a forecast of upcoming events farther in the future, please visit “newsletter” or the church “calendar” at www.chapellane.org. Did you miss last week’s announcements? They may be viewed at “Worship /bulletin” at www.chapellane.org.

CHAPEL LANE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Today through Dec 17, 2017

Flowers: The flowers today are given in memory of Shirley Babcock by Clyde and the family.

Congregational Meeting 12/10: A short special meeting of the congregation is being called for Sunday, December 10th, immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee, electing church Officers and voting on a proposed By-Law change to Article 1, Section 6 reducing the number of elders serving on Session from 12 to 9.

Followers In the Spirit Here: Music, lessons, fellowship and more. Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pre-kindergarten to Senior High.

Fall Contemporary Issues Class: Please join us in the parlor each Sunday this fall after the 10 a.m. service for our contemporary issues class. We are discussing the book *How Jesus Saves the World From Us: 12 Antidotes to Toxic Christianity* by Morgan Guyton. Guyton, a Methodist pastor, argues that many people are reluctant to attend church because the loudest Christian voices they hear sound harsh, judgmental and intolerant. He suggests that it is time for more compassionate and welcoming voices to assert themselves and he provides a roadmap for mainline Christian congregations to do just that. The class will be co-led by Pastor Rhonda Myers and Elder Paul Teed. Join us!

Lectionary-Based Class: The Lectionary-based class will not meet again until Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the library. We hope you will consider joining us.

The Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: We are studying the story of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. Books are \$13 and are available from Pastor Rhonda on a first come/first served basis.

Share Fair Results: Thank you, Church Family, for another joyous year of fellowship and "shopping" and then lastly feasting on a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. The Share Fair missions were supported very generously: ARTSHOP Creative 360-\$108.80; Congregational Care (not including the stars take by individuals)- \$125.00; Habitat for Humanity-\$310; Haitian Clinic & Orphanage (Haiti Projects) -\$1,190.00; Heifer International-\$800; Member-in-Mission-\$645.50; Midland Area Homes-\$70; Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN)-\$420.00; Missional Garden-\$620.00; Quilting Bees-\$483.00; Sharing Tree (red tags)-\$173.00; and the ROCK Youth Center \$735.00. This generosity totals \$5,680.30...plus the star tags!! Thank you, everyone, for your crafts and baked goods, for your help in setting up and tearing down all the displays, and for your participation...in sharing the love of Jesus.

The Monday Evening Circle will meet Monday, December 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Carol Rowe, 2200 Oakfield Dr. Carol's condo association has requested that we all park on one side of the street. We will be studying lesson 4 of our study guide. Please call Carol at 486-8329 if you have questions. Everyone is welcome.

Fun in Faith will meet at church on Friday, Dec. 8 at 6:00 p.m. for our Christmas Party. Please bring a wrapped \$5.00 gift for each person attending. The meat, potatoes and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share – vegetable, salad or dessert. There will be a poster in the foyer for you to sign up. Any questions, please contact Nona Willing or Erlene Carmody. We always have a fun time.

The Congregational Care Star Gifts and Gift Cards need to be returned to the church by December 10th. Please place gifts in a gift bag unwrapped with the star attached. Return them to the church office. The gift card with the star attached may be placed in the red box in the kiosk in the foyer. If you have any question, please call Alice Wiltse, 631-7271.

Carols by Candlelight! Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.: Hopefully your Family Christmas Traditions will include attending our Annual "Carols by Candlelight" Christmas Concert on December 17th at 7 p.m. This concert will feature all of the sights & sounds of Christmas as all of the Chapel Lane choirs participate in this festive evening. Please be our guest and attend the reception immediate following the concert and invite your friends and neighbors! A free will offering will be taken to benefit the children's Summer Camp & Music programs.

Christmas Eve Services: As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we will have only two services that day. Our family worship will be held on the morning of December 24th at 10:00 a.m. Our service of lessons and carols will take place at 7:00 p.m. that night. **Note: there will be no 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.**

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly "incredible gift." It also celebrates the gifts of church leaders-past, present and future. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterians-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The Christmas Joy Offering is the fourth of four special offerings that Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church committed to support in 2017. The offering will be dedicated on December 24th. Envelopes can be found in the pew racks. Thanks from the Board of Deacons for your donations.

Advent Devotionals: Our 2017 Advent Devotionals are in and you have two from which to choose. One is entitled "Watch," published by the Stillspeaking Writers Group, based upon Mark 13:35, "Watch, pay attention, stay wide awake, for the hour is coming..." The other is published by *Presbyterians Today* and is entitled "Let Love Speak." We suggest a donation of \$4 for either of these devotionals. But hope, most of all, that you will take one home and use it for your daily devotions this Advent. Consider bringing one to a

friend or loved one, too. Let us hope in God, watch for the signs of Christ's coming light, and let love speak through our words and actions this Advent.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – Today through Dec 17, 2017

Holiday Book Sale at Grace A. Dow Memorial Library on Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All books are in new or “gently used” condition. Every item will be just 50 cents!

Boar's Head Christmas Festival Performance at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 808 Weiss, Saginaw, is today at 4 p.m. Freewill offering. Handicap parking available. For more information, contact www.BethlehemSaginaw.org.

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers
Musicians: Karen Graef, Dr. Tim Hendrickson
Worship Leader: The Wildfong Family
Ushers: Mike and Cathy Starch, Carol Rowe, Alice Wiltse
Communion Servers: Mike and Cathy Starch, Carol Rowe, Alice Wiltse
Nursery: Renee White, Jennifer Hahn, Sarah Hahn
Ministers: *All the members of Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church*

Our Mission Statement

Celebrating our diversity of gifts, we seek to serve Christ by serving others with grace, love and laughter.

Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church

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