



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CHAPEL LANE!

*“Growing a Faith That Must Be Shared”*

**Dec. 17, 2017      Third Sunday of Advent/Joy Sunday      10:00 AM**

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

\* Please stand, if you are able

**Prelude Music**                      *“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*                      S. Tucker  
Adult 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, In the height of our Advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy. Joy in the face of apathy, Joy in the face of sorrow, Joy in the face of uncertainty. Amen. (Please sign the Fellowship Pad and use the prayer request cards for your joys/concerns.)*

### Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 61:1-3a, The Message)

The Spirit of GOD, the Master, is upon me because GOD anointed me.  
**He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken,**  
Announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners.  
**GOD sent me to announce the year of his grace and to comfort all who mourn,**  
To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes,  
**Messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a drowsy spirit.**

*(Light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle)*

I will sing for joy in GOD,  
**I will explode in praise from deep in my soul!**  
*(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                      *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*                      #82

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

We have locked ourselves out, O God. Each of us, in our own way, has locked ourselves out of relationships, has locked ourselves out of opportunities, has locked ourselves out of our true home, because we are too arrogant, or too stubborn, or simply too human. We have filled our lives and our world with darkness and death, because we have, all too often, put our own judgment and desires over yours. We are lost, in need of light and hope and joy. 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

First Lesson                      **I Thessalonians 5:12-28**                      NRSV pg. 1077

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

Second Lesson                      **John 1:6-8, 19-28**                      NRSV pg. 966

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

Children's Sermon                      **The Bucket Brigade**

Sermon                      **“Words to Live By”**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH JOY

\* Song of Response                      *“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”*                      #100



## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF Dec 17, 2017***

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***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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.chapellane.org). Did you miss last week's announcements? They may be viewed at "Worship /bulletin" at [www.chapellane.org](http://www.chapellane.org).

### **CHAPEL LANE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Today through Dec 31, 2017**

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**Flowers:** The flowers today are given in honor of Suzie Pryce, mother of Larry Pryce.

**TONIGHT! Carols by Candlelight! at 7:00 p.m.:** Hopefully your Family Christmas Traditions will include attending our Annual "Carols by Candlelight" Christmas Concert. 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.

**Session** meets Tuesday evening, December 19, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Elders are reminded their materials for the meeting are online.

**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. This Wednesday, dinner will be provided at 6 p.m. (Please sign up.) And the Advent craft will be one to "give away."

**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. Next month: The Minor Prophets.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee will meet in the Parlor on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Afternoon Ladies' Circle:** The afternoon ladies' circle will meet on Monday, December 18 at Independence Village located on Rockwell Drive (note change for winter months) from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. In this fourth lesson, "Hebrews" takes us on a tour of angelic messengers in the Bible to remind us that we never know when an encounter may bring us God's messages of love and support. Our mission project is the donation of personal care items to the HELP food pantry. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Please call Sally Ann Sutton at 835-2428.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Christmas Joy Offering:** Your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering supports Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges where students learn to lead with faith in their lives and work. Help give young people the opportunity to learn while growing their faith and leadership skills. For more information, see the bulletin insert for more information. There are envelopes in the pew racks 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 we 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 31, 2017**

**Dinner on Christmas Day** will be served on **Monday, December 25, at St. John’s Lutheran Church** at 505 East Carpenter in Midland from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The free turkey dinner, with all the traditional trimmings, will begin after the 10 a.m. worship service that is offered to anyone who wishes to come. Arrangements may be made for transportation to the Christmas Day Service and/or the dinner, as well as for delivered meals. **Please call 835-5861, extension 1225 by December 20 for transportation or meal delivery.**

***Participants in Today’s Service***

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers  
**Musicians:** Karen Graef, Dr. Tim Hendrickson  
**Worship Leader:** Helen Myers  
**Ushers:** Carol and John Ostergren, Kerry and Kelly Buell  
**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***

5501 Jefferson Avenue, Midland, MI 48640 Phone # 989 631-2081 Fax # 989 631-2014  
Church e-mail: [Office@chapellane.org](mailto:Office@chapellane.org) Website: [www.chapellane.org](http://www.chapellane.org)

**Pastor:** *Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers* [revrhon@aol.com](mailto:revrhon@aol.com)  
**Dir. Christian Ed.:** *Erica Clark* [education@chapellane.org](mailto:education@chapellane.org)  
**Director of Music:** *Karen Graef* [music@chapellane.org](mailto:music@chapellane.org)  
**Office Professional:** *Joyce Glover* [office@chapellane.org](mailto:office@chapellane.org)  
**Prayer Chain:** *Judy Brauer* [prayers@chapellane.org](mailto:prayers@chapellane.org)  
**Newsletter:** *Kerry Buell* [newsletter@chapellane.org](mailto:newsletter@chapellane.org)  
*Linda Langrill*