

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IONIA  
DECEMBER 10, 2017  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CHIMES OF THE HOUR

INTROIT

*“Emmanuel”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will  
speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those  
who turn to him in their hearts.

**Congregation: Surely his salvation is at hand for those  
who fear him, that his glory may dwell in  
our land.**

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteous-  
ness and peace will kiss each other.

\*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

**Congregation: Faithfulness will spring up from the  
ground, and righteousness will look  
down from the sky.**

Pastor: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will  
yield its increase.

**Congregation: Righteousness will go before him, and  
will make a path for his steps.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Ernie and Marcia Ross

\*HYMN 8

*“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(in Unison)*

**We confess, O God, that our holiday traditions and rou-  
tines crowd out time for prayerful communion with you.**

**We take lightly this act of confession, as if the depth of  
your mercy excludes the need for self-examination.**

**Our lists do not include you. We are too hurried and do  
not make straight in our hearts a path for you, and we**

**ignore your messenger. We do not prepare ourselves to receive your presence among us. Forgive our sins and restore our closed and cluttered hearts.**

KYRIE HYMN 572

*“Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us,  
Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is sending one who will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. It is God's own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Because of Christ, our sins are forgiven. By the power of the Holy Spirit he transforms us so that we may become messengers crying out in our wildernesses the hope of our coming Lord. **Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: Christ has given us peace that surpasses all understanding. The peace of Christ be with you!

**Congregation: The peace of Christ be with you also!**

HARKNESS HAND BELLS

*“King David Dances Before the Lord”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Liturgist: *2 Peter 3:8-15a* Page 1063-1064 Pew Bible

Liturgist: The Word of the Lord!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: *Mark 1:1-8* Page 867 Pew Bible

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord!

**Congregation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON

*“Preparing the Way”*

Dr. Chris Dorn

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Page 14 - Hymnal  
*The Apostles’ Creed*

\*HYMN 9

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with “The Lord’s Prayer”  
Page 16 in Hymnal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn 592

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN (INSERT)

*“The King of Glory”*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

Please sign the red attendance folder in your pew, sharing your name with those near you and making formal your gift to God of this hour. If you give your complete address and phone number, we will keep you informed about upcoming events.

***Serving in Worship Today:***

***Guest Speaker:*** Dr. Christ Dorn; ***Liturgist:*** Jim VanSyckle

***Greeters and Ushers:*** Lee Hunsberger, Megan Ransom, Barb

***Klenk; Fellowship:*** Christian Ed; ***Flowers:*** Linda Hood and

***Worship Committee***

*Serving in Worship next Sunday:*

*Guest Speaker:* Dr. Chris Dorn; *Liturgist:* Shelly Reglin

*Greeters and Ushers:* Perry and Margaret Gregory, Bill Robinson

*Fellowship:* Membership and Care Committee; *Flowers:* Linda Hood and Worship Committee

*Elders serving on Session:* Dr. Jan Arnold, David Hanson, Lavonna Hoover, Evelyn Ransom, Sue Reglin, Cindy Rozich, Dr. Keith Sterner, Dr. Warren Thompson, Kathy VanSyckle

*Music Fund:* Elder Bill Robinson

*Shaver Children's Fund:* Elder Judi Emlinger

*Head Start Initiative:* Elder Sue Thompson

Margaret Gregory, Clerk

Barb Klenk and Norma Kilpatrick, Treasurers

Music Leader

Harkness Handbell Choir Director

Administrative Assistant

Custodian

Mike Kaufman

Cindy Rozich

Deb Montgomery

Steve Slaughter

COME ENJOY!

Retirees Fellowship: Norma Kilpatrick, President (527-4144)

*good friendship, good activities, 3rd Thursday*

Quilters Fellowship: Carol Shier, Chairperson (616-755-0963)

*fun, fellowship, and helping hearts 9:30 a.m. Wednesday*

Prayer Shawl Group: Evelyn Ransom and Mary Williams, Co-

*Chairs Making lap robes and shawls for those who need*

*them*

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Bless, O Lord, the one you are sending to be our next pastor.

When that person is joyful, guide that person to be prayerful.

When that person is tempted, stay by that person. In all seasons send that person the companions you intend and the good judgment and good heart to embrace them.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Christian Education Committee hopes to receive your cans and bottles to redeem for their deposits, as well as your exhausted ink cartridges.

Your help is needed for Sunday Fellowship hour and altar flowers. Please remember to sign up.

Head Start is in need of gently used clean boys and girls winter coats or snow pants size 5 and 6. You can put them in the shopping cart. It's cold outside! Thanks!

At the November 20 Session meeting, the Session decided we would only have one service December 24th. The regular worship service will be Sunday, December 24th at 10 A.M. At this service, there will be a Christmas pageant. This year, we will not have a Christmas Eve evening service.

### CALENDAR

- 12/10 8:30 A.M. Harkness Hand Bells practice  
10:00 A.M. Worship - Guest speaker, Dr. Chris Dorn  
11:00 A.M. Fellowship and Refreshments
- 12/13 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 12/14 10:00 A.M. Christian Ed meeting at Aunt Stephanie's  
2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group
- 12/17 8:30 A.M. Harkness Hand Bells practice  
10:00 A.M. Worship - Guest Speaker, Dr. Chris Dorn  
11:00 A.M. Fellowship and Refreshments
- 12/18 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting
- 12/20 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 12/21 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group  
5:00 P.M. Soup Kitchen at Zion, Team #5  
Captain, Linda Steele and Mercantile Bank Employees
- 12/24 8:30 A.M. Harkness Hand Bells practice  
10:00 A.M. Worship - Children's Christmas Pageant  
11:00 A.M. Fellowship and Refreshments
- 12/25 Merry Christmas
- 12/27 9:30 A.M. Quilters
- 12/28 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group



## **SEE WHO WE ARE**

### **Christian Service Center**

*clothing and household goods we donate for neighbors*

### **Crop Walk**

*walking or rocking we help to feed the world*

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

*homemade soup prepared and served to collect funds for local soup kitchen*

### **March Into Reading**

*books we give to Head Start youngsters*

### **Faithful Friends**

*Head Start classroom volunteers & family support*

### **Ionia County Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen**

*groceries we collect and food we serve for a neighborhood center*

### **Bear Buddies**

*near Christmas, we collect small stuffed animals for use in hospital emergency room, patrol cars of police officers, and spouse abuse center*