

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IONIA
DECEMBER 17, 2017
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CHIMES OF THE HOUR

INTROIT (INSERT)

“Emmanuel”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we
were like those who dream.

**Congregation: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy; then
it was said among the nations, “The Lord
has done great things for them.”**

Pastor: The Lord has done great things for us, and we
rejoiced.

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

**Congregation: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the
watercourses in the Negeb.**

Pastor: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Congregation: Those who go out weeping, bearing the
seed for sowing, shall come home with
shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Margaret and Perry Gregory

*HYMN 40

“Joy to the World”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in Unison)

**Holy God, for our apathy in the presence of oppression,
for our thoughtless complicity in the systems that en-
slave, for the part we have played in the brokenhearted-
ness of those in our world, for the times our mouths
have withheld the words of comfort from those who
mourn, for all the times our lives have contradicted the**

gospel of joy, forgive us. Open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit and in your great mercy grant us repentance, we pray.

KYRIE HYMN 572

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news. God has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants. He has sent his Son into the world. His name is Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. In him God's faithfulness to his promise is revealed. Believe this good news and live. **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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Liturgist: *1Thessalonians 5:16-24* Page 1031 Pew Bible

Liturgist: The Word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: *Luke 1:46b-55* Page 888 Pew Bible

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord!

Congregation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON

"Mary, the First One to Carry the Gospel"
Dr. Chris Dorn

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Page 14 - Hymnal
The Apostles' Creed

*HYMN 145

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

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:* Shelly Reglin

Greeters and Ushers: Perry and Margaret Gregory, Bill

Robinson; *Fellowship:* Membership and Care Committee;

Flowers: Linda Hood and Worship Committee

Serving in Worship next Sunday:

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris Dorn; *Liturgist:* Christmas Pageant

Greeters and Ushers: Marcia and Ernie Ross, Norma Kilpatrick

Fellowship: Linda Heinicke;

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

Mike Kaufman

Harkness Handbell Choir Director

Cindy Rozich

Administrative Assistant

Deb Montgomery

Custodian

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

- 12/17 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 9:00 A.M. Deadline for January Newsletter articles
- 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
- 12/28 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group
- 12/31 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

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