



Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 51

December 21st, 2025

Final Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

Grace to you and Peace!

On behalf of the elders, deacons, and all the saints: Welcome to **First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe**. We are pleased that you are here with us today to worship our Triune God. This bulletin contains a liturgy which will guide you through our worship services. We invite you to join us after the service for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Here's a bit of info about who we are and what we believe:

We are a Christian Church: Thus, we believe in the Holy Trinity: One God, in three persons: The Eternal Father, the Eternally-Begotten Son, and the Eternally-Proceeding Holy Spirit. As Christians, we confess the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3) and codified in the ancient creeds of the Christian Church: The Apostles' Creed (2nd century), the Nicene Creed (AD 381), the Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451) and the Athanasian Creed (5th century).

We are a Protestant Church: As Protestants, we trace our beliefs and practices to the Apostolic Church, but we also have foundational roots in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries. Protestants believe in the authority of the inspired Holy Scriptures over unbiblical Church tradition. We also believe that salvation is by God's *grace alone*, through *faith alone*, in *Christ alone*, for the *glory of God alone* (Eph. 2:8–10).

We are a Reformed Church: Reformed Churches originated from different regions, mostly in Western Europe, during the Protestant Reformation. These churches believe and confess the doctrinal summaries of the Holy Scriptures that arose from that time period. Our tradition comes from the Scottish and English Reformations; thus, we believe and confess the Westminster Standards, written in England during the 1640's.

We are a Presbyterian Church: Presbyterians believe that the biblical form of Church government is through called, trained, tested, elected, and ordained elders. In the Greek New Testament, elders are called *presbyters*, which is where the name "Presbyterian" comes from. Our Teaching Elder preaches and teaches, and our Ruling Elders come alongside of him to shepherd, lead, keep the Church from false doctrine, and make decisions on her behalf. We also have trained, tested, called, elected, and ordained deacons who take care of the material needs of the Church.

Reformed Presbyterian Churches hold the public worship of God in high esteem. Thus, our **Lord's Day Worship Services** are the most important events of the week. During this time, we gather together to hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), to pray, to praise, and enjoy Christian fellowship. If you have any questions, feel free to connect with me, or with one of our elders or deacons.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Rev. Scott C. McDermand II

CHURCH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS SUNDAY: DECEMBER 21ST

- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**
- 11:15 Fellowship Meal: Advent Feast
- 11:45 Sunday School
- 5:00 Evening Worship: Catechetical Service**

THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 21ST– DECEMBER 27TH

Christmas Eve Service – Join us on Thursday, December 24th for our traditional service of Lessons and Carols at 6:00 PM. This is when our church begins singing Christmas carols. If you like Christmas carols, you should come to this.

Christmas Morning – Before you tear into your presents, come join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, an important aspect of the Gospel. Our liturgy of Word, Sacrament, & Prayer goes from 9:00–10:00 AM. Join us after the service for donuts and coffee in the Lounge.

Birthdays & Anniversaries –

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FUTURE EVENTS

Courtney Manor Service – Our next Courtney Manor worship service is on Sunday, January 4th at 1:00 PM. If you are able, come and join us as we worship with those who are unable to join us for our public worship.

Epiphany Feast – Our annual Epiphany Feast is after our morning service on Sunday, January 11th. Join as we celebrate the Epiphany of Lord to the nations. Need volunteers to cook the ham and turkey, which is provided by the church. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Annual Congregational Meeting – Our Congregational Meeting will be held after our morning worship service on Sunday, January 25th. There will be fellowship and snacks afterward, but no Sunday School or PM Service that day. Annual reports and write-ups will be available at the beginning of January prior to the meeting.

Missions Giving – Beginning in 2026, our giving toward missions will now be part of our budget. We will be giving 10% of our 2025 tithing toward foreign and local missions. If you are currently giving additional offerings toward missions, we encourage you to simply factor that into your weekly or monthly giving. We are also looking for several people who are missions-minded and would like to serve in local outreach. Thank you!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN NEED OF PRAYER: Ann Armstrong, Mark & Michelle Green, Tom & Julia Mayes, and Lisa Schember; those who serve as caretakers; all who are ill or traveling; long-term care residents: Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart, and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); for those who have ceased attending public worship, that God would reveal to them their sin, and the necessity of worship and fellowship.

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker, the Kawachis (France), the Nachtergaeles (Belgium), the Shupes (British Colombia), and the Wilsons (Middle East), as they work as ambassadors of the King for the advancement of the Gospel of his Kingdom; that we would be missionaries by sharing the gospel and inviting people to our church; that God would grant courage and the words to speak as we interact with family and friends; that we would not be ashamed of sharing the gospel, but always ready to provide a defense for the hope that is within us.

OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRIES: That the work of the Session, Diaconate, Sunday School program, Missions Committee, and of all the saints would glorify God and be Great Commission-focused; that our service would edify the church and facilitate growth; that we would remain vigilant and faithful to the Word of God and our denominational standards; that our Sunday school classrooms would be full; for the peace and purity of our church; that our members would take their public vows seriously and attend church regularly; that our people would attend our PM services where the means of grace are offered; that God would be glorified and we would be sanctified as we worship him.

OUR COUNTRY: That the civil magistrate would rule with justice and uphold laws; that they would protect and encourage the good and punish the evil; for our local, county, state, and federal civil servants; for the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches; that our leaders in government would come to know Christ: The King of kings and Lord of lords, and that their governance would demonstrate that knowledge; that Christians in the United States would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives; that Christians would direct others to God in the way that we live as salt and light.

THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL: That the Kingdom of God on earth would advance through the preaching of the gospel throughout the world; for Christians who are being persecuted and martyred: that they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and that their persecutors would be converted through this witness. This month we pray in particular for Christians living under Muslim oppression and persecution in Nigeria.

PRELUDE & SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“”

Behold Our God | Sovereign Grace (2011)

O God, you have the darkness of the world to shine with the brightness of true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light, and have been born again being made your children by adoption and grace, may be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect | Final Sunday of Advent

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The Holy Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoice in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generation will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is from generation to generation.”

The Virgin Mary | Luke 1:46–50

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

St. John | John 1:9–13

~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING

Revelation 1:4b–5a

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 9

*PSALM OF PRAISE

196 – Come, Thou Long-

Expected Jesus

*RESPONSORIAL

from Isaiah 9 & Psalm

124:5

Minister: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

†Congregation: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called:**

Minister: Wonderful counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end.

†Congregation: **On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and uphold it with justice and
righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.**

Minister: Our help is in the Name of the LORD!

†Congregation: **Who made heaven and earth!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW

Luke

1:26–56

Minister: The Word of God is living and active.

†Congregation: **Sharper than any two-edged sword.**

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Most Merciful God:

You have shone light upon those who dwell in darkness,
and you have promised a holy Child
who is our Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God;
one with the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Yet we confess that we have walked in the shadows of sin and unbelief,
we have trusted in our own wisdom, pursued our own glory,
and have neglected to rejoice in the salvation
that you have accomplished through your **S**on.

Like Mary, we would magnify your holy Name,
but our hearts are slow to praise
and quick to doubt that nothing is impossible with you.

Forgive us, O Lord,

for our pride, our ingratitude, and our forgetfulness of your mercy.

By your **S**pirit, lift the humble and fill the hungry with all good things,
that we may walk in the light of **C**hrist
and proclaim his Kingdom that shall have no end.

Through Jesus **C**hrist our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

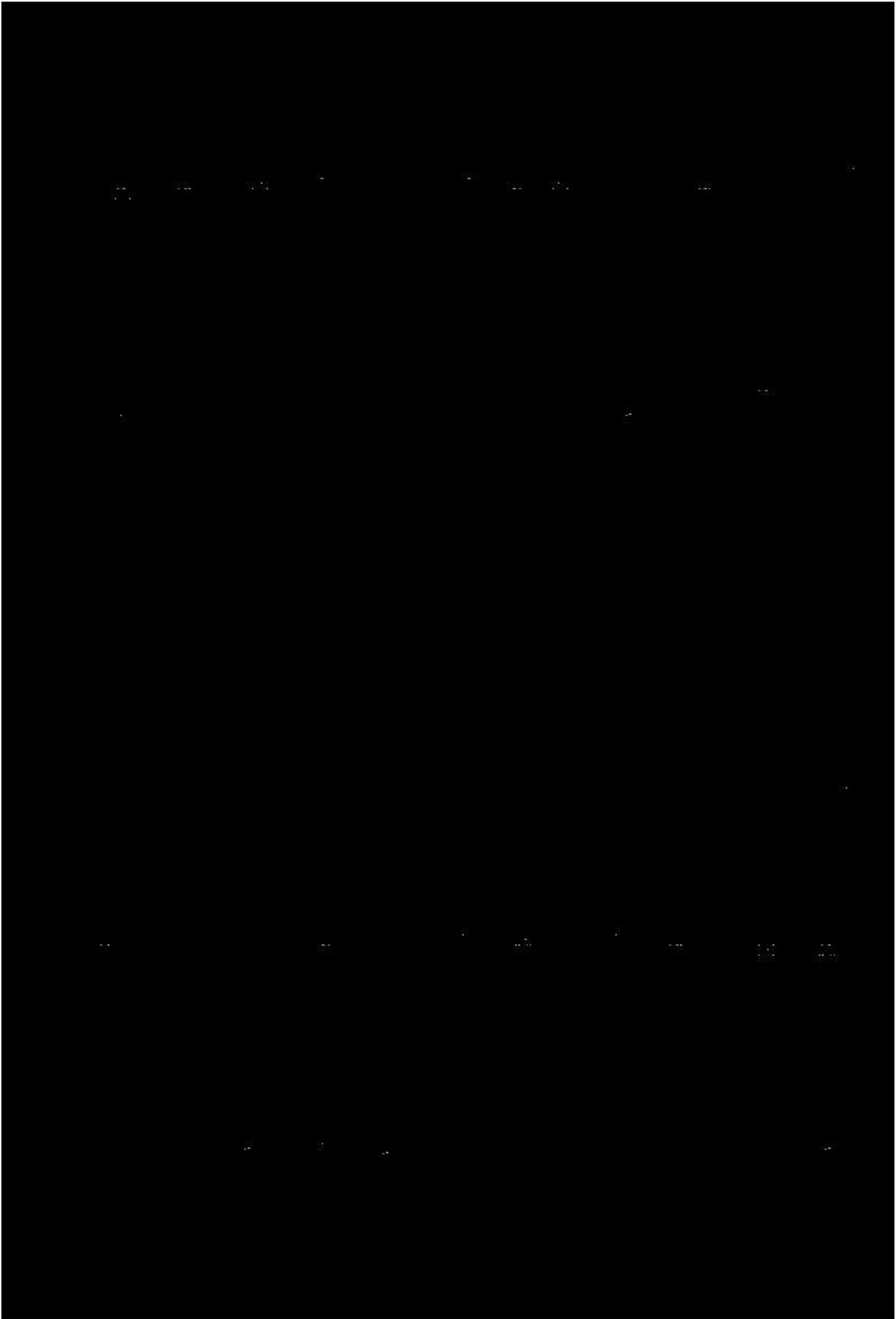
1:50

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Mary

1 John 1:9; Luke

The Song of



OUR OFFERINGS

It belongs to those in the office of elder...to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of morals enter therein...They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock.

Book of Discipline | BCO 8-3

The Holy Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and all things and that we are but stewards of both life and possessions; that God's ownership and our stewardship should be acknowledged; that this acknowledgment should take the form, in part, of giving at least a tithe of our income and other offerings to the work of the Lord through Church of Jesus Christ, thus worshipping the Lord with our possessions.¹

Book of Worship | BCO 54-1

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Teaching Elder, Rev. Scott

McDermand

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.

¹ Offerings can be placed in the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary, given online, or by using the "Church App" on your mobile device.

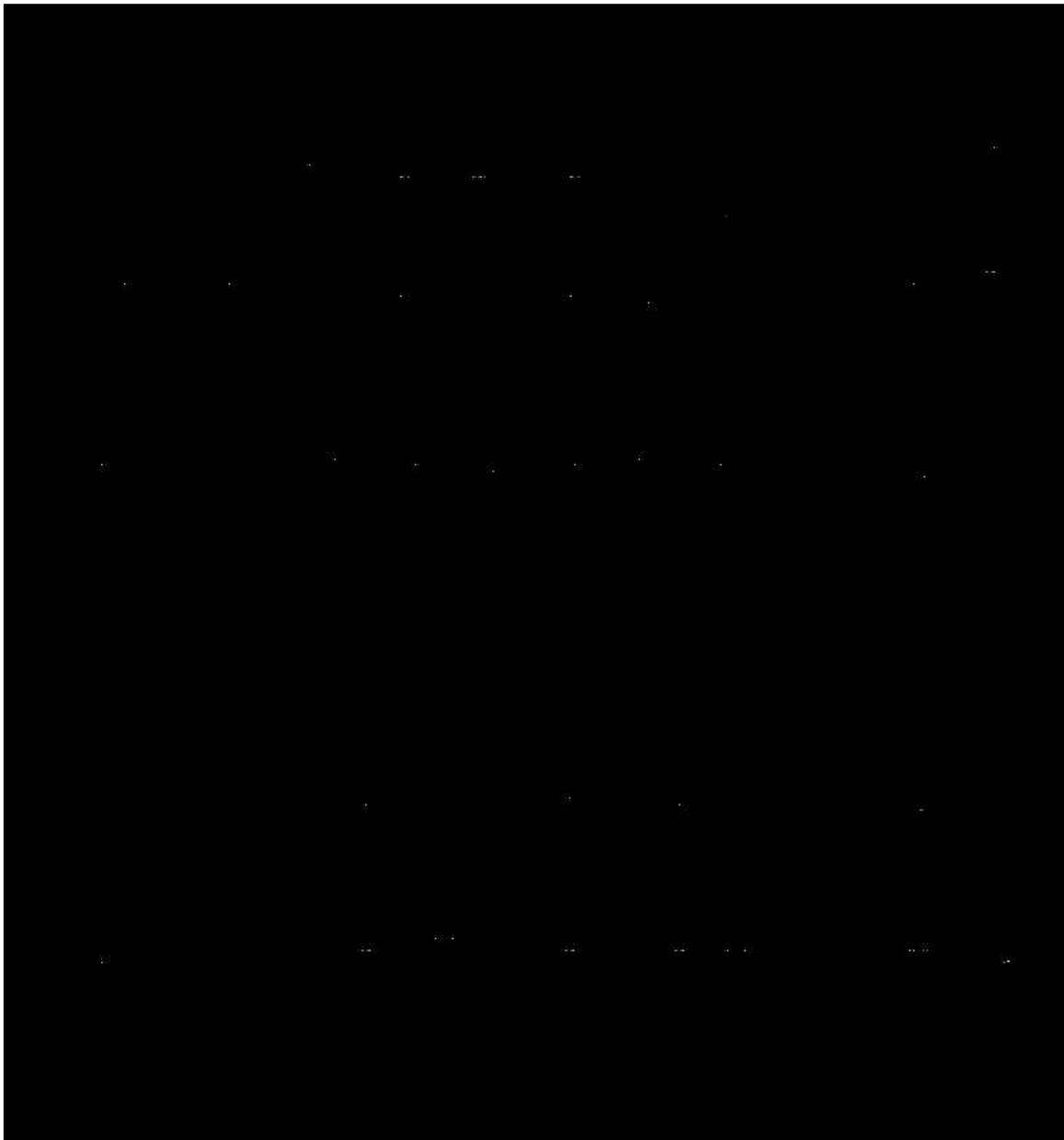
THE WEEKLY OFFERING

2 Corinthians

8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

*THE OFFERING OF PRAISE



THE SERMON

It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate upon, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

The Westminster Divines | WLC 160

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT

John

1:6–13

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

†Congregation: **But the Word of our God stands forever!**

SERMON

Advent, Christmas, &

Epiphany with John:

Advent 4: The True

Light

SERMON NOTES

THE TRUE LIGHT

REJECTED BY THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD

RECEIVED BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM

LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

HYMN OF RESPONSE

194 – O Come, O Come,

Emmanuel

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

CONFESSION OF FAITH

NICENE CREED (AD 381)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

193 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep

Silence

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum Corda (3rd

Cent.)

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians

11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*THE LORD'S SUPPER
PRAYER OF APPLICATION

DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION

*DOXOLOGY

O Come, Messiah, Come

Again

*BENEDICTION

Numbers

6:24–26

*POSTLUDE

EVENING WORSHIP: **CATECHETICAL SERVICE (5:00 PM)**

PRELUDE

“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”
Jesu

Herzliebster

Johann Cruger (1640)

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it; and endued him with power and ability to keep it. This law, after his fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness; and, as such, was delivered by God upon mount Sinai in ten commandments, and written in two tables; the first four commandments containing our duty towards God and the other six our duty to man.

The Westminster Divines | WCF 19.1–2, “Of the Law of God”

Beside this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a Church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and

partly holding forth diverse instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws now abrogated under the New Testament. To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the State of that people, not obliging any other, now, further than the general equity thereof may require.

The Westminster Divines | WCF 19.3–4, “Of the Law of God”

The moral doth forever bind all, as well as justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation.

The Westminster Divines | WCF 19.5, “Of the Law of God”

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GREETING

1 Peter

1:1b–2

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm

32

*PSALM OF PRAISE

53 – Praise to the Lord,

the Almighty

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

READING & RESPONSES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus

20:1–20

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT

WCF 19.5 – Of the Law of

God

The moral law doth forever bind all,

as well as justified persons as others,
to the obedience thereof;
and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it,
but also, in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it.
Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve,
but much strengthen this obligation.

*PSALM OF RESPONSE

558 – *That Man Is Blest, Who*

Fearing God

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John

1:5–2:7

SERMON

Of the Law of God: The Binding Moral

Law

SERMON NOTES

REVIEW: THE LAW OF GOD

THE EVER-BINDING MORAL LAW

THE MORAL LAW & THE ACTIVE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST

THE OBLIGATION OF THE MORAL LAW UNDER THE GOSPEL

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF APPLICATION

149 – *Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way of*

Truth

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

CONFESSION OF FAITH

845 – *Apostles'*

Creed

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

248 – *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou*

Offended

COMMUNION HYMN

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum

Corda

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians

11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*DOXOLOGY

11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

(1, 2)

*BENEDICTION

Hebrews

13:20–21

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstance;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Ann Armstrong (cancer), Mark (major back surgery, recovering at home) & Michelle (caretaking) Green, Tom & Julia Mayes (recovery from surgery, constant pain, and a recent fall), and Lisa Schember; for all those

who serve as caretakers in our congregation; for those who are ill; and for those who are traveling.

For those living in long-term care facilities: Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); that our shut-in ministry would be fruitful and that our members would participate in it.

For non-attending members: that God would reveal to them their sin and grant them an understanding of the necessity of public worship and the means of grace; that by his Spirit, he would bring them back to the body of Christ so that they would not forsake the communion of the saints and the public worship on the Lord's Day for his glory and their edification.

For Visitors: That God would continue to bring in families, couples, and individuals who seek to glorify him, learn the Bible and the Christian Faith, and come to a Reformed understanding of Scripture. Praise for recent visitors and that they would consider membership here in our local body of Christ.

For our Families: that husbands would love their wives as Christ loves the Church and that wives would submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ. That parents would take seriously their duty to raise and train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That fathers would bring their families to Church. That parents would bring their children to Sunday School every Lord's Day. That children would obey their parents and show respect to authorities in the home, church, and society.

For our singles and divorced: that they would devote themselves to the Lord and to the ministries of the Church; and that God would grant marriage to those who desire it.

For our widows: that the Lord would provide support and fellowship through the church; that they would devote themselves to Christ and serve His body.

For our College Students: Regan Hobkirk and Hailee McLeod; that they would glorify God in their studies; that they would attend a local church on the Lord's Day; and that God would grant them vocational clarity.

For Family Members & Friends of our Church: for the physical and spiritual health of: Amanda Armstrong (Ann's niece: cancer); Linda Dumaw (Bonnie Perry, Judy Stokan, and Sharon Carpenter's friend); Tom Fata (Annette Knapp's brother: colon cancer); Virginia Gembariski (Sharon Gisel's sister: Leukemia); Libby Hill and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod's aunt and sister-in-law); Marge Mauer (Bonnie Perry's friend: stroke, surgery); Nicole Patterson (Gina's

daughter: seizures); Cecil Shuart (friend of the McLeod's); Bob Ziel (Kim's father: Courtney Manor, various health concerns); Anita (Kristin Smith's mother: recovery from heart surgery).

For all of our ministries: for faithfulness in our ordained officers, the ability to lead and shepherd for the Elders, strength and energy for the Diaconate as they take on numerous projects, wisdom and a view of the Great Commission for Trustees, for our Sunday School program: attendance (especially for children's catechism), Sunday School teachers, for those who serve in the Missions Committee; for a stronger local outreach; and for our men's and women's ministry's that they would be a blessing to us and to others. That those who participate in these would be blessed as they humbly serve for the glory of God. That these ministries would facilitate growth in the grace and knowledge Christ and be fruitful. That God would raise up and send more faithful men to lead and serve. That we would be faithful in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Church Order. That God would bless our Church with more families, couples, and individuals who desire to glorify God, grow in Christ, and serve in our Church's ministries.

For our worship services: That the Holy Spirit would work through the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments, and prayer for the salvation, sanctification, and preservation of God's people. That through these ordinary means, we would be built up in the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. That we would worship God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. That Christ and him crucified would be preached faithfully, week in and week out. That the gospel would go forth and people would be brought into this local body. That God would send or raise up more musicians and singers to serve him with their gifts, especially a second pianist so that our pianist would be able to receive days of rest. That our giving would increase and be congruent with the blessings that God blessed us with. That we would properly sanctify the Lord's Day and attend to the means of grace. That our members would have a higher view of the Lord's Day and the worship services, and this would be evident in the fruit of their attendance of our morning and evening services.

For our sanctuary improvement project: That God would provide the means and the labor for our pews to be reupholstered and re-painted, for the sanctuary to be re-painted, and for new carpet/flooring; that those who are able, would give towards this project as we anticipate our 150th year anniversary as a church.

OUR PRESBYTERY:

New City Presbyterian, Ferndale MI— Senior Pastor is Tommy (Abigail) Myrick and Assistant Pastor Brennen (Tiffany) Winter— Thanking and praising God for His daily provisions and guidance. Please pray for our officers, deacon assistants, and staff as we serve the Lord's church with wisdom and guidance through love and grace. Please pray for our men's and women's ministries to take root and grow and provide a place of growing more like Christ. Please pray for our students and children's ministries that the Lord would provide men and women who love the Lord and desire to serve our covenant children in discipling and shepherding their hearts. Please pray that all who call New City their home will grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord and His church and will be blessed in using the gifts they are given to serve the church in the way the Lord leads them. Praying we continue to grow in our Awe of the Lord and may His Name be praised in all things.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Harrison Twp MI—Pastor Douglas (Lesley) Graham; Asst. Pastor Paul (Cecily) Davis; Asst. Pastor Jim (Sandy) Mascow Please pray that God will be glorified and His Word heard.

Dan Millward (Laura) and the Detroit Project —Please pray for: Northville/Novi, seeking the right man/pastor/planter to lead the transition of Christ Pres, Novi, an independent Presbyterian church that has voted to come into the GLP as a Mission Church/Relaunch. Steve (Mandy) Van Noort and the particularization process for Sojourn Sterling Heights. Jerry (Katherine) Riendeau with the responsibilities of an amazing new facility they just moved into at Grace Dearborn

-Ryan (Megan) McVicar and the now particularized Red Tree Ann Arbor as they continue to reach that campus and region. Micah (Laura) Jelinek at Immanuel Clarkston as he and his team continue to gain momentum there, especially with students at Oakland University in partnership with CRU. Adam (Adrienne) Thomas Christ Pres as they seek to move from Southfield to the Rochester area ASAP. Upcoming Planter readiness seminar Feb 27-28 First Pres Trenton. Kingsley (Hanna) Lai at Redeemer Windsor, as he is raising money and garnering interest for that plant, slated to move from Toronto to Windsor by summer.

OUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY:

That in our community, we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, ready to give a defense of the gospel and the hope that is in us. (1 Peter 3:15) That we would be lights in a dark place, salt in a flavorless world, a city on a hill. That there would be a need for church planting Reformed Churches in the

Thumb; for wisdom, provision, and buy-in regarding the starting a Christian School. That our local, state, and federal civil magistrates would lead, rule, make and enforce laws according to Scripture; that our state and federal laws would protect rather than allow for the destruction of the unborn. That all of our leaders would bend the knee to Christ and his Rule. For the protection of our armed forces, veterans, law enforcement, doctors, nurses, EMTs and all others serving in dangerous vocations, domestically and abroad.

That the Church in the United States would live according to God's Word and for his glory. That Christians would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives, setting an example for non-believers and bringing glory to God. That our lives and good works would bring God glory and direct others to him and his kingdom. That we would lose influence and the ability to witness because of hypocrisy in the church. That we would all "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." (Psalm 2) That God would raise up leaders who seek to bring him glory as they serve on behalf of the community, county, state, and federal levels. For the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches in our country. For the Church's protection from government overreach and that the right to gather and worship would protected regardless of the circumstances. That the Church in the United States would grow and thrive from a robust preaching of the Gospel and the whole counsel of God. That God would remove dead branches from the true church as well false churches who teach things contrary to Word of God or preach a false gospel. That he would be glorified in all of this.

OUR MISSIONARIES & THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH:

Pray for all of our missionaries: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker (Zambia), the Kawachi's (France), the Nachtergaele's (Belgium), and the Wilsons (Middle East), and the Shupes (Canada). This month, we pray in particular for the Nachtergaele's in Belgium. For our congregation: that we would be missionaries in our own contexts by inviting and bringing our family, friends, and neighbors to participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and learning that our Church offers. As Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." That our new Missions budget would be a blessing to our foreign missionaries and facilitate more local outreach.

For persecuted Christians throughout the world who are suffering because of the Cross. That they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, even unto

death, and that their persecutors would be converted through their witness. This month we pray in particular for Christians living under Muslim oppression and persecution in Nigeria (7th most persecuted Christians in the world).

INFORMATION & STATISTICS

THE SESSION

Wayne Copeland	Ruling Elder, Missions
Chris Fluegge	Ruling Elder, Trustee
Scott McDermand	Teaching Elder, Moderator
Jim Philp	Ruling Elder, Clerk, Trustee
Kim Ziel	Ruling Elder

THE DIACONATE

Bob Hobkirk	Board Member, Trustee
Allan McLeod	Board Member
Scott McDermand	Advisory Member, Moderator

Sharon Carpenter	Diaconal Assistant
Dan Clarkson	Diaconal Assistant
Greg Davis	Diaconal Assistant
Linda Herndon	Diaconal Assistant
Carol Holtrop	Diaconal Assistant
Lori McLeod	Diaconal Assistant
Alex Smith	Diaconal Assistant

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: DECEMBER 7TH

AM Service	61
AM Livestream	
AM AVG. 2025	65
AM AVG. 2024	64
PM Service	No PM Service
PM Livestream	NA
PM AVG. 2025	17
PM AVG. 2024	14

GENERAL FUND GIVING

December Giving	\$
December Budget	\$



The Annunciation

(Fra Angelico, 1440–45)