



Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 50

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

**WELCOME**

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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 (2<sup>nd</sup> century), the Nicene Creed (AD 381), the Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451) and the Athanasian Creed (5<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

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### **THIS SUNDAY: DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

- 9:55      Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00      Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**
- 11:30      Fellowship Meal: Advent Feast

### **THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>–DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**Advent Feast** – Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after our worship service for our annual Advent Feast. No Sunday School or PM Service tonight, enjoy your food coma or continued fellowship with the saints after the feast!

**Theology Thursday: Book Study** – Join us for our study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "The Cost of Discipleship." Charcuterie and fellowship at 6:30, study begins at 7:00.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** –

### **FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FUTURE EVENTS**

**Men's Breakfast** – Join the men of the church on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> for a big hearty breakfast, strong coffee, fellowship, robust hymns, prayer, and encouragement. Kitchen opens at 8:00, breakfast starts at 9:00. Sign up and show up.

**Christmas Eve Service** – Join us 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.

**Courtney Manor Service** – Our next Courtney Manor worship service is on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 25<sup>th</sup>. 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**

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**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**

6277

Behold Our God | Sovereign Grace (2011)

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Collect | Thid Sunday of Advent

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

The Holy Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 40:1–5

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

Zechariah the Priest, Father of John the Baptist | Luke 1:68–76

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with the water, the he might be revealed to Israel."

St. John | John 1:1–5

# ~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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\*GOD'S GREETING

*Revelation 1:4b-5a*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Isaiah 35 &*

*40*

\*PSALM OF PRAISE

*Joyful, Joyful,*

*We Adore Thee*

\*RESPONSORIAL

*from Isaiah 35 & 40; Psalm*

*124:5*

Minister: The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not grow faint or weary;  
His understanding is unsearchable.

†Congregation: **The eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
The lame man shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.**

Minister: For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert.  
The wilderness and dry land shall be glad.

†Congregation: **They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God!**

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

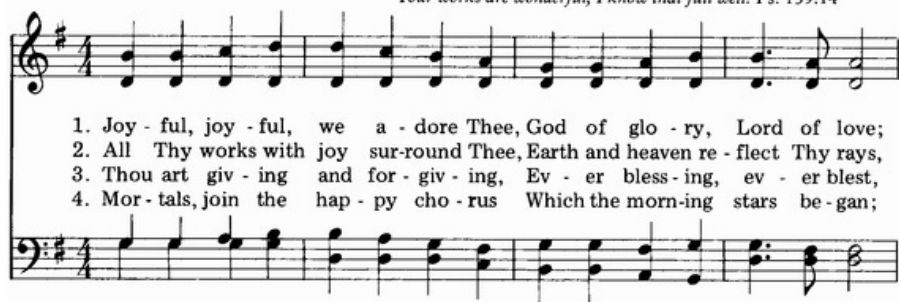
†Congregation: **Who made heaven and earth!**

\*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

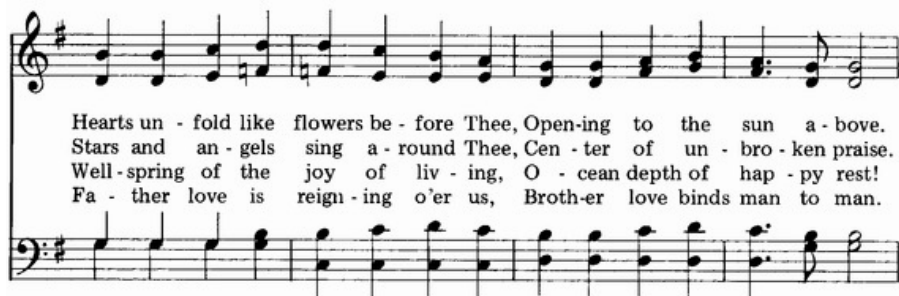


# Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 1

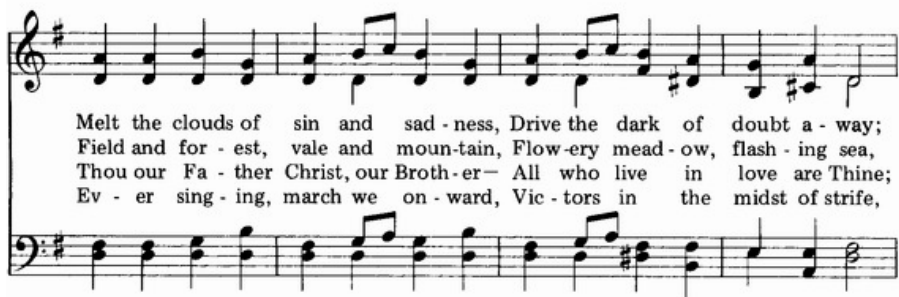
*Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Ps. 139:14*



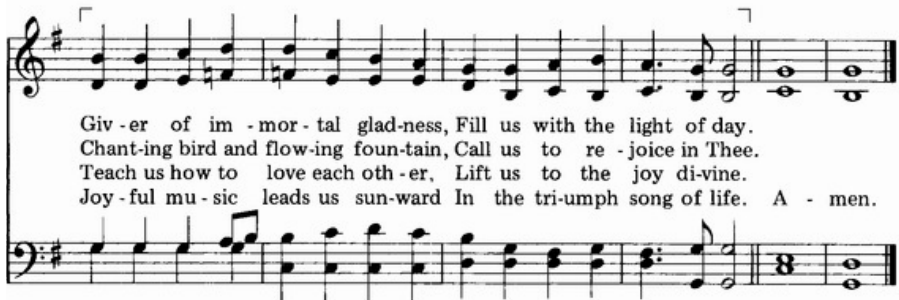
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther Christ, our Broth - er— All who live in love are Thine;  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

TEXT: Henry van Dyke  
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven; melody from *Ninth Symphony*;  
adapted by Edward Hodges

HYMN TO JOY  
8.7.8.7.D.

# THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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## READING OF THE LAW

*Luke*

1:59–80

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 and Heavenly Father:

You have promised to redeem your people  
and to raise up a horn of salvation for us,  
yet we doubt your Word and forget your promises;  
and we often fail to walk in the light of your covenant.

You open blind eyes and strengthen weak hands,  
yet we cling to our own ways;  
our hearts grow cold toward you and your glory,  
and we fall short of loving our neighbor as ourselves.

You speak comfort to your people,  
but our pride and selfish desires  
make crooked what you would make straight.

For the sake Jesus Christ,  
the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world,  
forgive us, cleanse us, and guide our feet in the way of peace,  
that we may turn and wait for his coming,  
with humble joy and obedient hope. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*1 John 1:9; Luke*

1:68

\*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

*Song of*

*Zechariah*



## OUR OFFERINGS

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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.<sup>1</sup>

Book of Worship | BCO 54-1

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Ruling Elder, Mr.*

*Chris Fluegge*

### 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.

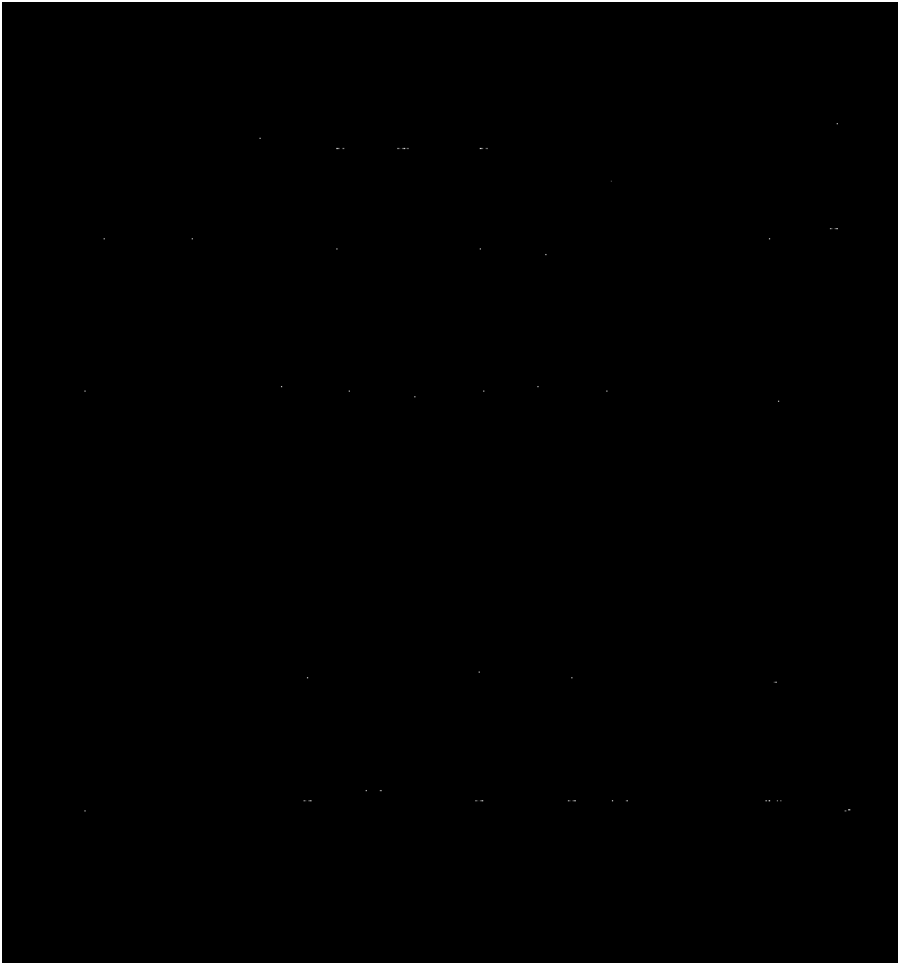
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<sup>1</sup> Offerings can be placed in the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary, given online, or by using the "Church App" on your mobile device.

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

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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 1:6–8,*

*19–34*

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON

*Advent, Christmas, &*

*Epiphany with John:*

*Advent 3: A Man Sent from*

*God*

SERMON NOTES

# THE FORERUNNER

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## **THE MINISTRY OF JOHN**

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## **PREPARING FOR THE CHRIST**

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PRAYER OF APPLICATION

HYMN OF RESPONSE

197 – *Comfort, Comfort Ye My*

*People*

## 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**

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### LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

#### COMMUNION HYMN

*193 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep*

*Silence*

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Sursum Corda (3<sup>rd</sup>*

*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**

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\*DOXOLOGY

*O Come, Messiah, Come*

*Again*

\*BENEDICTION

1 Thessalonians

5:23–25, 28

\*POSTLUDE

## **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 Gembarski (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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 be 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 as false churches who teach things contrary to the 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 (7<sup>th</sup> most persecuted Christians in the world).



# INFORMATION & STATISTICS

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## THE SESSION

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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

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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 7<sup>TH</sup>

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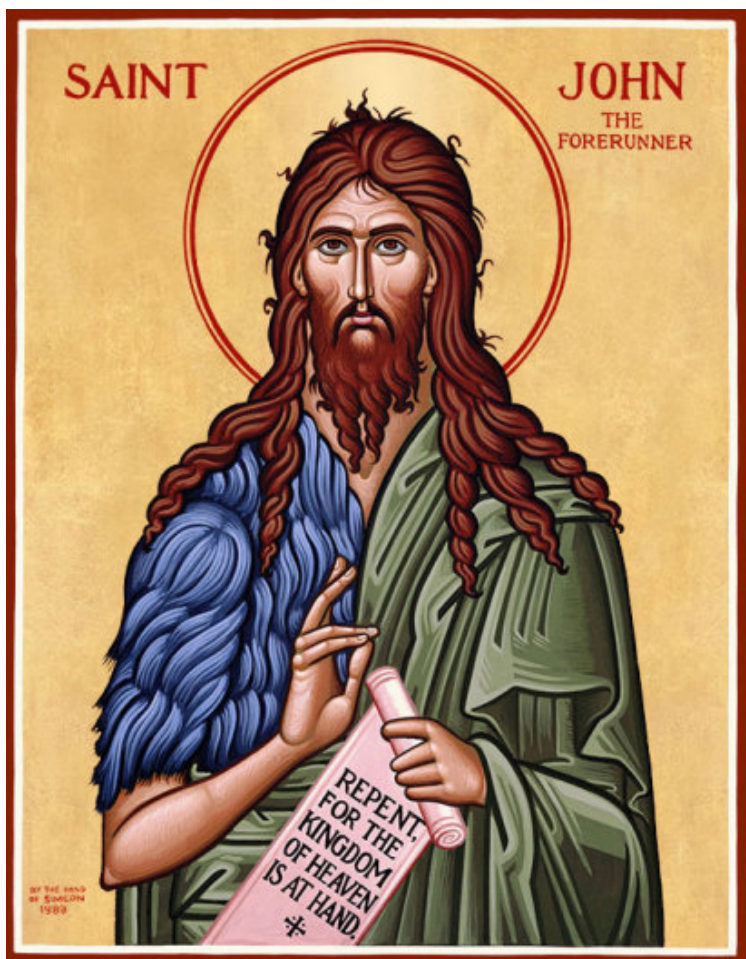
AM Service	65
AM Livestream	
AM AVG. 2025	65
AM AVG. 2024	64
25	

PM Service	11
PM Livestream	
PM AVG. 2025	17
PM AVG. 2024	14

**GENERAL FUND GIVING**

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December Giving	\$
December Budget	\$



*"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

(John 1:29)