



GROSSE POINTE
MEMORIAL CHURCH
'A light by the lakeshore'

Service of Worship
Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024 | 9 & 11 am

Order of Service for the Worship of God

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Please remember to silence electronic devices.

PRELUDE – Prelude on *Veni Emmaneul*

Arr. Logan Hamilton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Alleluia the Christ child comes, and we await his birth.

All: **Let us throw off our distractions, and allow the chaos to settle.**

One: Let us watch for the signs, and listen to the messengers.

All: **Let us stand on tiptoe, and shout aloud and sing.**

One: Something new is emerging, Something new is being birthed.

All: **Come, let us worship God!**

*OPENING HYMN 88 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(see bulletin page 10)

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

*LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)

One: The days are ticking by and feelings of inadequacy tick up. Fear of not being or doing enough bubbles up and squashes the Spirit of creativity, newness, and joy. As we await Christ, we pray for the uncontainable, irrepressible, and explosive energy of divine joy.

All: **We light the candle of joy. May its dancing flame tame our fear.**

*ADVENT RESPONSE 83 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Tune: Stuttgart

All: **Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our prayer of confession is followed by a time for silent confession.

All: **Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: **Amen. May the God of peace cleanse you through and through. The promise is that our whole being—spirit, soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 5:23) Rejoice, then, and give thanks as we receive forgiveness and healing in Christ's name.**

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: **The peace of the Lord be with you.**

All: **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: **Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 41: 17 – 20

(O.T. pages 629 – 630)

After each reading:

One: **The Word of the Lord.**

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SONG 188 – Jesus Loves Me

Tune: Jesus Loves Me

CHILDREN'S TIME (9 AM)

Children ages 4-grade 2 may depart for "Children's Church" held in room 301 after the children's sermon. At 10:05 am, volunteers will take children participating in Middle Hour to the 3rd floor: Pre-K-Kindergarten to room 302; Grades 1-2 to room 310; and Grades 3-4 to room 307. Parents/caregivers can pick up children not participating in Middle Hour from room 301 immediately following the service.

ANTHEM – The Word was God

Rosephanye Powell

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 1: 18 – 25

(N.T. page 1)

SERMON – The Fear of Failure

Jeff Lincicome

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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.**

ANTHEM AND OFFERING – A Hymn on the Nativity

Nico Muhly

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING 606 – Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Tune: Old Hundredth

All: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;**

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

TAKING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN 610 – O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
(see bulletin page 11)

Tune: Azmon

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Arr. Logan Hamilton

This Morning's Music: Looks at the Word Incarnate and the glory of the promises fulfilled. The anthem by American composer Rosephanyne Powell (b. 1962) is composed with tremendous rhythmic force. The separate parts interlock to create a weaving effect, expressing a sense of controlled chaos. This creates the kind of energy that the gospel of John opens with that points towards the word incarnate that is Christ.

The offertory is a work by another American composer, Nico Muhly (b. 1981) that is set to a 16th century poem by Ben Jonson. Here, the poem recalls Christ's birth in a sentimental light that points towards the fulfilment of the Word that is done on behalf of human life. Muhly uses a sense of tonal ambiguity and driving urgency in the first half of the poem to thrill listeners as the poem speaks of how the shepherds were frightened when they were greeted by the heavenly hosts. In contrast, the second portion of the piece uses longer melodic phrases and ostinatos to show the gravity of Christ's peaceful birth, and the atonement of sin that make the listeners of the poem "Heirs of Glory."

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WELCOME TO GPMC

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and one of its vibrant congregations. For 159 years, we have been a light by the lakeshore for Jesus Christ, through our worship, education, outreach, and community life. We give thanks to God that you joined us today and we pray you will receive a sense of God's loving Spirit from your time with us. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Our Mission and Vision Statement: Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever, we are called and committed to living out our love for God. Through worship, study and service, we strive to continue God's transforming work by worshiping God joyfully, welcoming others graciously, supporting one another lovingly, and faithfully responding to our community and world with compassion.

Inclusion Statement: As a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA), GPMC is an inclusive community of faith, welcoming people of all races, gender identities, and sexual orientation, believing that God gifts and calls everyone into beloved service and community with God and others.

Leading and Assisting in Worship: Jeff Lincicome, Heather Thum - Gerber, Carol Marks, liturgists; Matt Bejin (9 am), Tim Butler (11 am), lay readers; the Costello family (9 am), Deborah and Stephen D'Arcy (11 am), Advent candle lighters; Logan Hamilton, Minister of Music and Organist; the Sanctuary Choir.

Advent Sermon Series: *Facing Our Fears.* It is said that the phrase "Do not be afraid" is the most often quoted phrase in all the Bible. Clearly God was on to us since we spend much of our earthly life living with the aching knowledge that life will bring challenge, uncertainty and fear. It shouldn't surprise us then that facing our fears is also a common theme in the Advent story, as God invites the players in this cosmic drama to look at their fears square in the face and be changes. Join us in worship as we take a look at these "Fear not!" passages in the Advent story as we learn to face the fears that haunt us today.


The Birth Rose is for Clark Kenneth Elston, born November 30, 2024 to Allison and Scott Elston. Clark's grandparents are Lori and Jim Everett.

Flowers in the Sanctuary are funded by our members in memory or in honor of a loved one. If interested in dedicating flowers, please contact Nancy Eckert at 313.418.6380 or nancy.k.eckert@gmail.com.

Hearing assistance system in the Sanctuary: These devices, pieces and lanyards are on the credenza towards the front of the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please see one of the ushers.

Infant and toddler room is available in room 112 during the service should you prefer to leave your child with our wonderful caregivers.

Worship kits for children to use during worship are in blue bags located at each of the entrances.



Help GPMC shine bright and share the light by making your 2025 pledge. Scan the QR code, visit <https://gpmchurch.org/pledge-form/>, call the church office at 313.882.5330, or return your pledge envelope either in person or via mail. Thank you for helping us be a light by the lakeshore.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY AT GPMC?

9:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestreamed
10:10 am	Sunday School	Third Floor
10:10 am	Youth Middle Hour	Third Floor
10:10 am	Adult Middle Hour	Barbour Chapel
11:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
3:00 pm	Advent Songfest	Sanctuary
4:30 pm	Songfest Reception	Fellowship Hall
5:00 pm	Worship Service	Barbour Chapel

Chrismon ornaments have been part of various Reformed churches since the 1950s and represent the symbols of our faith. During Middle Hour today and on December 22 you will have the opportunity to not only learn the meaning of these symbols but make an ornament to take home for your Christmas tree as a reminder of our rich tradition and faith!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Praying for one another is an important and loving gift. The staff of GPMC meets every Tuesday morning and offers prayers for members of the congregation. If you would like to add a person to our prayers or on the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin, please call Carol Marks 313.882.5330 ex. 127 or email her at cmarks@gpmchurch.org. May God continue to surround you with love and care.

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Recent Prayer Requests for: Lori Conway (Jim Conway's sister-in-law), Jane Dow, Gwen Dunlap (Karen and Wayne Pratt's sister), Susan Feldman (Carol Kristan's cousin), Julie Harrison (Jennifer Cauvel's cousin), Rachel Howard (Cheryl Littleton's friend's daughter), Steve Lundberg (Jim Conway's brother), Betsy Maitland, Julie Meek (Marilyn Doyal's sister), Peggy Sargent (Phyllis Brewster's sister), Dr. Alan Roger Shepherd (Ken Shepherd's brother), Allison and Zach Thorton.

Continued Prayers for: Ron Dollette, Lisa Gandelot, Stephanie Kornblum (Sue Vititoe's daughter), Stacie Longo (Janie Burkey's daughter), Michael Meda.

Protection and Strength for Our Loved Ones in the Military: Alec Doyal, Special Forces, U.S. Air Force (Marilyn and Guy Doyal's grandson).

Tom Carver, Ken Carver's brother, died on December 8, 2024. A funeral service will be held on December 16th in Ashland, Ohio. Please pray for Tom's wife, Debi, their children, Gabby and Trey, his parents, William and Ethel Carver, and Ken, Jen, Allie, Annabelle, and Adelynn Carver.

This Week at GPMC

Worship Notes/Reflections

Monday, December 16

Preacher's Workshop, 10 - 11 am (2nd Floor Lounge)
Boy Scouts Court of Honor, 7 - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, December 17

Women's Bible Study, 7 - 8 am (Room 215)
Yoga, 10 - 11 am & 6 - 7 pm (Room 322)
Al-Anon, 6:30 - 8 pm (Library)
AA, 7 - 8 pm (Room 209)
Longest Night Worship Service, 7 - 8 pm (Barbour Chapel)

Wednesday, December 18

Men's Bible Study, 7 - 8 am (2nd Floor Lounge)
AA, 8:15 - 9:30 am (Room 209)

Thursday, December 19

Women's Connection, 9 - 10 am (Second Floor Lounge)
Yoga, 10 - 11 am (Room 322) & 6 - 7 pm (Fellowship Hall)
Handbell Rehearsal, 6:15 - 7 pm (Room 326)
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 - 9:15 pm (Choir Room)

Friday, December 20

Ecumenical Men's Breakfast 8 - 9 am (Fellowship Hall)
Unpack the Truck, 8:30 - 10:30 am (Offsite)
Free Food Fridays, 9 - 11 am (Offsite)
Al-Anon, 6:30 - 8 pm (Library)
AA, 7 - 8 pm (Room 209)

Saturday, December 21

Men's Bible Study, 8 - 9 am (Offsite)
Parish Life Caroling Event, 1 - 4 pm (Fellowship Hall and Offsite)

Sunday, December 22

Worship Services, *9 & 11 am (Sanctuary & *Livestreamed), 5 pm (Barbour Chapel)
Children's Sunday School & Youth Middle Hour, 10:10 - 10:50 am (Third Floor)
Adult Middle Hour, 10:10 - 10:50 am (Barbour Chapel)

**Please note this list is subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit gpmchurch.org.*

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

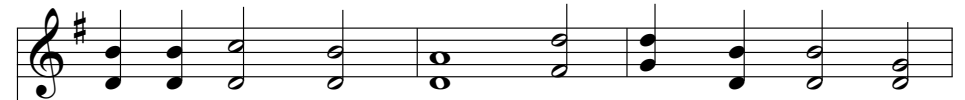
6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

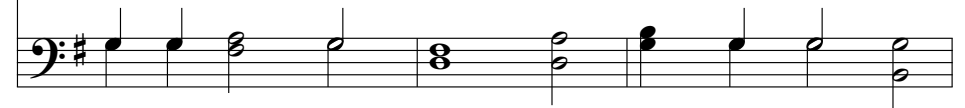
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be



dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and



God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.





GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

'A light by the lakeshore'

16 Lake Shore Drive
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
gpmchurch.org · 313.882.5330

Office Hours

8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Thursday
8:30 am – 3:00 pm, Friday

Connect with us



Grosse Pointe Memorial Church
@GPMCNews
#gpmchurch

Wi-Fi Access

Network in Sanctuary: gpmchurch
Password: bibles@gpmchurch

Network on Trinity Terrace: GPMC-Guest
Password: GPMC123#

Please email lcameron@gpmchurch.org to
receive weekly eNews.



Giving at GPMC

Scan the QR code, visit
bit.ly/GPMC-GiveNow,
or text "GPMC" to 73256.

STAFF AT GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Lincicome
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Heather Thum - Gerber
Associate Pastor

Dan Aggas
Head Sexton

Dave Buckler
GPMC Treasurer

Marie Calcaterra
Director of Mornings at Memorial

Lindsay Cameron
Director of Communications

Susan Griffin
Director of Accounting

Logan Hamilton
Minister of Music and Organist

Donna Hartzell
Executive Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator

Tena Harwick
Assistant Accounting Manager

Julie Huellmantel
Director of Outreach Ministries

Annie Joines Prentice
Director of Children's Ministries

Carol Beltz Marks
Director of Pastoral Ministries

Margaret Mollison
Director of Youth Ministries

The Reverend Susan Mozena
Parish Associate

Rory Powell
Handbell Choir Director

Dan Ryan
Building Engineer

Joe Warnez
Sexton

Eric Whitmer
Resident Carillonist

Carol Ambrogio Wood
Admin. Assistant for Membership & Christian Education