



GROSSE POINTE  
MEMORIAL CHURCH  
'A light by the lakeshore'

Service of Worship  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025 | 9 & 11 am

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## 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.*

#### GATHERING MUSIC/HANDBELL PRELUDE

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN 88 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
(see bulletin page 10)

*Tune: Veni Emmanuel*

#### \*LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE)

*One:* In the name of the Prince of Peace, may we rejoice in the presence of God in every moment of our existence.

*All:* **Come, Lord and do not delay!**

*One:* That we may recognize in everyone the God who dwells among us;

*All:* **Come, Lord and do not delay!**

*One:* May the people of God, which is beyond all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

*All:* **Amen.**

#### \*ADVENT RESPONSE - A Flickering Candle

*Tune: Greensleeves*

*Choir:* A flickering candle sheds its light in hope of dawn's victorious might, and backward scurries cowardly night reminded of the morning.

*All:* **Watch, watch, for Christ is near, the promised Son of God most dear.  
Hope, hope, his light will clear the shades of death and sin.**

Choir: The dawn of God's redeeming grace lit Bethlehem, that humble place; now radiant beams from Jesus' face illumine all creation.

All: **Watch, watch, for Christ is near, the promised Son of God most dear. Hope, hope, his light will clear the shades of death and sin.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

All: **Lord, we confess that we have been wrapped up on our secular celebration of Christmas. We have thoroughly enjoyed the music, the food, the swirl of activities. We have looked happily at the Christmas lights and decorations, and yet we have chosen to ignore the people who are most in need of compassion and assistance during this time. We often feel overwhelmed by the demands on our resources and so we turn our "deaf ear" and look away. Open our hearts today, precious Lord, and help us hear the cries of those in need. Bring us to an understanding of active discipleship in which we work helping others and thus serving you. Heal us and give us courage and joy in your service. For we ask this in Jesus' Name.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Amen. God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

All: **God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

All: **Testify to us, O God, by the voice of your Spirit. Put your law in our hearts,**

**write your word in our minds, and show your will in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 60:1 – 6

(O.T. page 649)

*After each reading:*

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SONG (9 AM) – Prepare the Way of the Lord *Tune: Prepare the Way*

All: **Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God. (Sung 3x)**

CHILDREN'S TIME (9 AM)

*After the children's sermon, children ages 4 – Grade 4 who are participating in Sunday School, will be taken to the 3rd floor: PreK– Grade 2 to room 301; Grades 3 – 4 to room 307. Children can be picked up at 10:15 from their respective rooms.*

ANTHEM – Personent Hodie

*Arr. Will Todd*

*Personent hodie voces puerulae, laudantes iucunde qui nobis est natus, summo Deo datus.*

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord,  
Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.

*In mundo nascitur, pannis involvitur praesepe ponitur stabulo brutorum, rector supernorum.  
Perdidit, dit, dit, perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.*

His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him.

*Omnes clericuli, pariter pueri, cantent ut angeli: advenisti mundo, laudes tibi fundo.  
Ideo, o, o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ,  
Heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 2:1 – 12

(N.T. page 1)

SERMON – The Light of an Unusual Star

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 – We Three Kings

*Arr. Will Todd*

### \*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING 608

*Tune: Praise God (Hopson)*

*All:* **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit ever - more;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

## TAKING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN 150 – As with Gladness Men of Old  
(see bulletin page 11)

*Tune: Dix*

### \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

*Arr. Logan Hamilton*

**This Morning's Music:** Continues the celebration of blending melodies and text of old with newfound harmonies and rhythms of jazz. The anthem is an arraignment of the medieval Latin carol *Personent Hodie* translating to “on this day, Earth shall ring.” Todd's arrangement is a spirited celebration filled with dancing syncopation and mystical harmonies that emphasize the nature of Christ's birth and endearing love. The offertory is a serene arrangement of the carol, “We Three Kings” that has roots in 19th century North America. The words were originally penned for a *Christmas Pageant* by John Henry Hopkins Jr, then serving as a rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, PA in 1857. Todd opens his arrangement with a sparkling piano accompaniment with a baritone solo sung by Ken Shepherd that sets the tone of the carol's narrative of the Wise Men's venture to the Christ child.

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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 161 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 worshipping 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; the Linsdau family (9 am), Anne and Albert Ford (11 am), Advent candle lighters; Joanne Muller (9 am), Dave Hofmann (11 am), lay readers; Handbell Choir; Rory Powell, Handbell Choir Director; Sanctuary Choir; Logan Hamilton, Minister of Music and Organist.

**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 Rachel Kurtz at 313.300.5353 or rkurtz1234@aol.com

**Giving at GPMC:** Visit [bit.ly/GPMC-Giving](https://bit.ly/GPMC-Giving), text "GPMC" to 73256. Offering envelopes can also be found in the pews. Thank you for helping us be a light by the lakeshore.

**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.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY AT GPMC?

9:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
9:20 am	Children's Sunday School	Third Floor
10:10 am	Alternative Gifts Outreach	Fellowship Hall
10:15 am	Children's Choir	Room 320
11:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary

### SERMON SERIES

*In Living Color: The Story of Our Faith*

*One of the gifts of GPMC is the incredible Willet stained glass windows that adorn our sanctuary. For close to 100 years, these windows have told the story of our faith, painting the Bible in living color, surrounding us on all sides with our heritage. This year, with those windows as our guide, we will be walking through the story of our faith, one pane at a time. What a gift we have been given!*



## 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 at 313.882.5330 ex. 127 or email her at [cmarks@gpmchurch.org](mailto: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:** Martha Day, Emilie (Susan Griffin's sister), Chris Fines (Kathy Kurap's friend), Dick Strowger, Bruce Vollmer.

**Continued Prayers for:** Kathy Belter (Cheryl Littleton's aunt), John Boris, Jane Dow, Joanne Grierson, John Harris (Jodi Stevens' father), Amy Hatch, Dennis Hertel (the Musial's friend), Stephanie Kornblum (Sue Vitioe's daughter), David Lile, (Anne Musial's nephew), Carol Martin (Cheryl Littleton's mother), Amy Miller, Sharon Miquel, Millie Neal (Doris Neal Van Tiem's mother), Rose Palazzolo (Frank Palazzolo's mother), Annie Prentice, Ted Schaefer (Elizabeth and Stephen Schaefer's son), Carolyn Scheuer (Marilyn Doyal's sister), Sue Stanley, Salvador Zuniga (Janice Zuniga's son).

**Protection and Strength for Our Loved Ones in the Military:** Ensign Peter A. Costello, USN (Gretchen and Bill Costello's son), Alec Doyal, Special Forces, U.S. Air Force (Marilyn and Guy Doyal's grandson), Christian Mageau, Senior Airman USAF (Cynthia and Michael Mageau's son), Steven Hess, Army Combat Medic, FL (Roma and Tom Hess' grandson), Alec Mains, U.S. Marines, Djibouti, Africa (Phyllis and John Brewster's grandson), Douglas Clark Ross, Senior Airman Avionics Technician, U.S. Airforce, Capt. Florencio J. Yuzon, V, U.S. Navy (Val and Pat Moran's son-in-law), 1LT Florencio C. Yuzon, VI, U.S. Army (Val and Pat Moran's grandson).

## In Memoriam

**Janet B. Ferguson**

*(November 28, 1939 - December 1, 2025)*

A Service of the Resurrection will be held on January 11, 2026 at 1:30 pm in our sanctuary followed by a reception in the 2nd floor lounge. Please pray for Janet's sons, Craig and Robert, their family, and all who love Janet during these days of loss.

## In Memoriam

**Lee Sutton**

*(November 30, 1930 - November 9, 2020)*

**Sally Sutton**

*(June 22, 1931 - August 25, 2025)*

A family service will be held in the spring. Please pray for Lee and Sally's son and daughter, Lee and Jennifer, and their grandchildren.

## This Week at GPMC

### Monday, December 22

Preacher's Workshop, 10 - 11 am (2nd Floor Lounge)

### Tuesday, December 23

Women's Bible Study, 7 - 8 am (Offsite)

Yoga, 10 - 11 am (Room 322) & 6 - 7 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Al-Anon, 6:30 - 8 pm (Library)

AA, 7 - 8 pm (Room 209)

### Wednesday, December 24

AA, 8:30 - 9:30 am (Room 209)

Church Offices Closed at Noon

Worship Services, 12, \*5, \*7:30 & 10 pm (Sanctuary & \*Livestream)

### Church Offices Closed December 25 - January 1

### Sunday, December 28

Worship Service, 10:30 am (Sanctuary & Livestream)

Children's Church, 10:45 am (Room 301)

*\*Please note this list is subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit [gpmchurch.org](http://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-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 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.

# As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.





**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](mailto:lcameron@gpmchurch.org) to receive weekly eNews.



**Giving at GPMC**

Scan the QR code, visit  
[bit.ly/GPMC-GiveNow](http://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*

Dr. 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*

Carol Beltz Marks  
*Director of Pastoral Ministries*

Margaret Mollison  
*Director of Youth Ministries*

The Reverend Susan Mozena  
*Parish Associate*

Rory Powell  
*Handbell Choir Director*

Annie Joines Prentice  
*Director of Children's Ministries*

Dan Ryan  
*Building Engineer*

Eric Whitmer  
*Resident Carillonist*