



GROSSE POINTE  
MEMORIAL CHURCH  
'A light by the lakeshore'

Service of Worship  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024 | 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.*

PRELUDE – Improvisation on *Christmas*

*Arr. Logan Hamilton*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*One:* Glory to God in the highest!

*All:* And hope to every discouraged heart.

*One:* Glory to God in the highest!

*All:* And peace to every conflicted soul.

*One:* Glory to God in the highest!

*All:* And joy to every downcast spirit.

*One:* Glory to God in the highest!

*All:* And love to everyone. Let us sing praises to our God. Let us offer this light against the darkness.

\*OPENING HYMN 118 – While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks  
(see bulletin page 10)

*Tune: Christmas*

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

*One:* Acceptance can slip through our fingers as identities and roles of the world create dividing walls between one another. God's hope, love, and joy are limitless as are the bounds of the family of God. As we await Emmanuel, God with us, may our hearts find peace in knowing we belong.

*All:* We light the candle of peace. May its brightness quell our fear.

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

Tune: Stuttgart

All: By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst. Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Amen. Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

All: God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God!

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints. (I Thessalonians 5:23, 3:13)The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Speak to us once more your Word of truth, that our lives may be filled with your joy, this day, and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Ephesians 2: 13– 22

(N.T. page 181)

*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 – Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arr. Hugo Distler

GOSPEL READING – Luke 2: 8 – 20

(N.T. pages 54 – 55)

SERMON – The Fear of Being an Outsider

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 – Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Arr. Paul Wohlgemuth

\*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 143 – Angels from the Realms of Glory  
(see bulletin page 11)

Tune: Regent Square

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Recessional on Regent Square

Arr. Logan Hamilton

**This Morning’s Music:** Is an intimate reflection on Christ’s humble birth and the comfort it gives to those seeking it. The setting of the German chorale “Lo! How a rose E’er Blooming” by early 20th century composer Hugo Distler (1908-1942) is part his oratorio Die Weihnachtsgeschichte (The Christmas Story). The excerpt of the work presented this morning uses isorhythmic techniques that makes each vocal part feel independent, yet interlock with each other. Distler found inspiration in using these compositional techniques from the 16th century works of Josquin des Prez. The offertory arranged by American hymnal editor Paul Wohlgemuth (1927-1987) is a simple, but beautifully crafted anthem on the 11th century plainchant Divinium Mysterium, that is often associated with the text that recalls the conception and birth of Christ. The first citing of the text and tune paired together comes from Piae Cantiones, a compilation of hymns and spiritual songs from the late 16th century.

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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; Michael Kopasz (9 am), Dave Hofmann (11 am), lay readers; Sue and Dave Buckler (9 am), Megan and Alec MacKethan (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.

**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
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 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](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:** Susan Feldman (Carol Kristan's cousin), Julie Harrison (Jennifer Cauvel's cousin), Rachel Howard (Cheryl Littleton's friend's daughter), Julie Meek (Marilyn Doyal's sister), Peggy Sargent (Phyllis Brewster's sister), Dr. Alan Roger Shepherd (Ken Shepherd's brother), Martha Speer, George Stultz, Allison and Zach Thorton.

**Continued Prayers for:** Lori Conway (Jim Conway's sister-in-law), Ron Dollette, Jane Dow, Gwen Dunlap (Karen and Wayne Pratt's sister), Lisa Gandelot, Stephanie Kornblum (Sue Vititoe's daughter), Stacie Longo (Janie Burkey's daughter), Steve Lundberg (Jim Conway's brother), Betsy Maitland, 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).

**Dorothy Nelson**, Tom Singelyn's sister, died on December 4, 2024. The memorial service was at Christ Church Grosse Pointe on December 20th. Please pray for Tom, Denyse and Dorothy's family during these sad days.

## This Week at GPMC

Monday, December 23

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

Tuesday, December 24

Church Offices Closed at Noon

Family Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5 pm (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Christmas Eve Worship Services with Choir, 7:30 pm (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Christmas Eve Worship Services with Choir, 10 pm (Sanctuary)

Church Offices Closed December 25 - January 1

Sunday, December 29

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

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

“Christ in the Rubble” by Kelly Latimore



# While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 118

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed  
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread had seized their  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is born of  
 4 "The heaven - ly babe you there shall find to hu - man

on the ground, the an - gel of the Lord came down, and  
 trou - bled mind: "Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring to  
 Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord, and  
 view dis - played, all hum-bly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and

glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 you and hu - man - kind, to you and hu - man - kind.  
 this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:  
 in a man - ger laid, and in a man - ger laid."

5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
 appeared a shining throng  
 of angels praising God, who thus  
 addressed their joyful song,  
 addressed their joyful song:

# 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem-pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,  
 you have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!





## 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*

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*