



GROSSE POINTE
MEMORIAL CHURCH
'A light by the lakeshore'

Service of Worship
First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025 | 10:30 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.*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the temple of the Lord.
All: We have come to seek God's blessing.
One: This is the place the Word is proclaimed.
All: We have come to learn God's wisdom.
One: This is the house of the Holy One.
All: We have come to praise God's name.

*HYMN 132 – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
(see bulletin page 10)

Tune: In Dulci Jubilo

*RESPONSE of Praise – Joy to the World

Tune: Antioch

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

All: God our Savior, we confess that we are not people of peace. You clothe us with your love, but we do not love one another. You wrap us in your mercy, but we do not forgive each other. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to follow your way, and help us to grow each day in wisdom and favor with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Amen. As children of the Holy One, God forgives you and loves you eternally. By the power of God's Spirit, forgive yourself and forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven you. Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Isaiah prophesied with these words: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders' and he is named, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In Jesus Christ we find the fulfillment of that prophesy. Let us honor his name with the lives we lead and the peace we share. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Gracious God, holy wisdom came to dwell with us in Christ, filling the world with light and life. May the Spirit enliven the wisdom in your word this day, so that we may have intimate knowledge of your love for us. In the name of the One who is close to your heart we pray. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Colossians 3:12 – 17

(N.T. page 190)

After each reading:

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SONG 114 – Away in a Manger

Tune: Cradle Song

All: Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children ages 4-grade 2 may depart for Children's Church held in room 301 after the children's sermon. Parents/caregivers can pick up their children from room 301 after the worship service.

ANTHEM – The Little Road to Bethlehem

Michael Head

GOSPEL READING – Luke 2:41 – 52

(N.T. pages 55 – 56)

SERMON – A Word for the Wise

Heather Thum – Gerber

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 –He Shall Feed His Flock from *The Messiah* George Friedrick Handel

*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 140 – Once in Royal David’s City
(see bulletin page 11)

Tune: *Irby*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Toccata on *In Dulci Jubilo*

Arr. Logan Hamilton

This Morning’s Music: Places the newborn Christ as the pastoral lamb that promises peace and joy to all people. The anthem this morning is a solo arrangement of the English carol, “The Little Road to Bethlehem” which was penned by Margaret Rose (1888-1958) in 1946 and set to music by pianist and composer Michael Head (1900-1976). The poem tells of first-person perspective of the intimate journey to the place where Christ was born. Rose in an interview, spoke how the sheep grazing on the hillsides of Essex offered her inspiration to write the tale of one traveling a peaceful journey to see the Lamb of God. The offertory continues with images of rolling hills and tranquil pastures with the aria “He Shall Feed His Flock” from G. F Handel’s (1685-1759) celebrated oratorio *The Messiah*. The text for this aria is cited from two books of scripture. The first is from Isaiah 40:11, “He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.” The second, Matthew 11: 28-29, “Come unto Him, all ye that labor, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Handel’s juxtaposition of the Old and New Testament text shows the connection between the shepherd figure in Isaiah and who Matthew refers to as the same being that grants protection and rest. Handel sets the text with a gentle lilt and a calm steadiness that compliments the pastoral nature of the two passages.

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WELCOME TO GPMC

SERMON NOTES/REFLECTION

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 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: Heather Thum - Gerber, Carol Marks, liturgists; Julia Keim, lay reader; Carol Ambrogio, mezzo-soprano; 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 at 313.300.5353 or rkurtz1234@aol.com.

Giving at GPMC: Visit 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

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. 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.

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 Vitoe'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).

This Week at GPMC

Monday, December 29 Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 30 Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 31 Church Offices Closed

Thursday, January 1 Church Offices Closed

Friday, January 2

Free Food Fridays, 9 – 11 am (Offsite)

AA, 7 – 8 pm (Room 209)

Saturday, January 3

Men's Bible Study, 8 – 9 am (Offsite)

Sunday, January 4

Worship Services *9 and 11 am (Sanctuary & *Livestream)

Children's Church, 9:15 – 10:15 am (Room 301)

Confirmation Class, 10:10 – 10:50 am (Room 315)

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.*

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.



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

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