



GROSSE POINTE  
MEMORIAL CHURCH  
'A light by the lakeshore'

Service of Worship  
First Sunday of Christmas  
December 31, 2023 | 10:30 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 – What Is This Lovely Fragrance?

*French carol, arr. J. Biery*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*One:* Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

*All:* **Now God has spoken to us by a Son.**

*One:* God made the world through the Son, who has been appointed heir of all things and the perfect reflection of God's glory.

*All:* **The Son is the exact representation of God's being, sustaining all things by his powerful Word.**

*One:* Praise God for the gift of the Son.

*All:* **We welcome the light of the world!**

\*OPENING HYMN 143 – Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*Tune: Regent Square*

*We will sing stanzas 1 through 3.*

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

*All:* **God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world, but we choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life. Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach your Word to the nations and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*One:* Amen. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. Yet to all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, God gives us the right to become children of God. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

*All:* **Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE 134 – Joy to the World**

*Tune: Antioch*

*All:* **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*One:* God has received us, pardoned us, and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*All:* **God of light and life, open our eyes as well as our ears, so that we may not only hear your Word preached today but then see your Word lived out in our lives and in your world. Through Christ, our Lord, the light of the world. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3**

(O.T. pages 650 – 651)

*After each reading:*

*One:* The Word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

*There is no “Children’s Church” today. Children may sit with their parents after the children’s message.*

**ANTHEM – Hear the Angels Sing**

*James Biery*

*The words may be found at Hymn 123.*

**GOSPEL READING – Luke 2: 22 – 40**

(N.T. page 55)

**SERMON – Expect the Unexpected: Simeon and Anna**

*Jasmine Smart*

**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.**

**OFFERING AND ANTHEM – From Heaven Above**

*James Biery*

From heaven above to earth I come  
to bear good news to every home;  
glad tidings of great joy I bring  
whereof I now will say and sing, I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child  
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
this little child of lowly birth  
shall be the joy of all the earth, the joy of all the earth.”

These are the signs that you shall see  
to let you know that it is he:  
the manger-bed, in swaddling clothes  
the child who all the earth upholds, the child who all the earth upholds.”

Were earth a thousand times as fair  
and set with gold and jewels rare,  
still such a cradle would not do  
to rock a prince so great as you, rock a prince so great as you

My heart for very joy must leap;  
my lips no more can silence keep.

I, too must sing with joyful tongue  
the sweet and glorious cradle song, glorious cradle song:

Glory to God in heaven high,  
who unto us has come so nigh!  
While angels sing with happy mirth  
a joyful song to all the earth, a joyful song to all the earth.

**\*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING 143 (Stanza 4)**

*Tune: Regent Square*

*All:*       **All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**TAKING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN 132 – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

*Tune: In dulci jubilo*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE – Noel Suisse, Grand Jeu et Duo**

*Louis-Claude Daquin*

**THIS MORNING'S MUSIC**

In January of 2023, James Biery received a telephone call from Frank Pifferetti, Jr., director of traditional music at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in High Pointe, North Carolina, asking if he would be willing to write a choral piece for their 2023 Christmas Lovefeast service. He was happy to accept the commission, and during the summer months composed two pieces with the idea that Mr. Pifferetti could choose the one he wanted to use at his North Carolina church. He selected “Hear the Angels Sing,” which uses the familiar words of the carol “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” set to entirely new music. The other piece is a setting of Martin Luther’s hymn “From Heaven Above,” also with original music. Tragically, Mr. Pifferetti was killed in a horrific car crash on October 25. He was 58 years old.

## WELCOME TO GPMC

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and one of its vibrant congregations. For 157 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:** Jasmine Smart, Carol Marks; liturgists; Tim Butler, lay reader; The Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Choir; James Biery, organist and director.

**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](mailto:nancy.k.eckert@gmail.com)

**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.

**Giving at GPMC:** To donate, visit [bit.ly/GPMC-Giving](http://bit.ly/GPMC-Giving) or text "GPMC" to 73256.

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*Praying for one another is an important and loving gift. The staff of GPMC meet every Tuesday morning and offer prayers for members of the congregation. Using our directory, the staff pray for the parishioners on one page each Tuesday morning and offer prayers for members of the congregation.*

*If you would like to add a person to our prayers, 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:** Preston Burke (Victoria Hill's brother-in-law), Joan Coyle, Bill Fox, Jim and Laura Hebert (brother and sister-in-law of Denise Champion), Georgie Solomon, Annette White (Frank Palazzolo's cousin).

**Continued Prayers for:** Doug Bechler, Tom Bejin (Matt Bejin's father), Eleanor Berendt (Gregg Berendt's mother), Jim Bierbusse, Marlene Boll, Drucilla Burns (friend of Carol Koepplin), Laura Burns, Renee Centorbi (the Musials' friend), Ben Chapman, Margery Fuller, Bill Leonard, Phyllis May, Alicia Ollila (friend of Jan Arndt), Rob Sawka (Jan Arndt's nephew), Traci Spencer-Strong (Bryan Mahlmeister's sister), Kiernan Tague (friend of the Clark Family), John Tompkins, Bill Turner, Susan Villa-Acre (Linda Lloyd's friend).

**Protection and Strength for Our Loved Ones in the Military:** Joey and Mike Bejin (nephews of Matt Bejin), General Mike Coyne, (friend of the Tenglers), Alec Doyal (grandson of Guy and Marilyn Doyal), Special Forces, US Air Force, Alec Main (the Brewster's grandson), Phoebe Piku (advanced training in U.S. army), Douglas Ross (Airforce, Fighter aircraft integrated avionics), Captain Florencio Yuzon V, US Navy JAG (Val and Pat Moran's son-in-law), 2nd Lieutenant Florencio Connor Yuzon VI, US Army (Pat and Val Moran's grandson).

# 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:  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

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

# 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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

## This Week at GPMC

### Monday, January 1 Church Offices Closed

### Tuesday, January 2

Women's Bible Study, 7 - 8 am (Room 215)  
Yoga, 10 - 11 am (Room 301) & 6 - 7 pm (Fellowship Hall)  
Full Circle Yoga & Wellness, 12:15 - 2:15 pm (Fellowship Hall)  
Al-Anon, 6:30 - 8 pm (Library)  
AA, 7 - 8 pm (Room 209)

### Wednesday, January 3

Men's Bible Study, 7 - 8 am (2nd Floor Lounge)  
AA, 8:15 - 9:30 am (Room 209)  
Stephen Minister's Training, 2 - 5 pm (Room 320)

### Thursday, January 4

Women's Connection, 9 - 10 am (2nd Floor Lounge)  
Yoga, 10 - 11 am & 6 - 7 pm (Room 301)  
Maker's at Memorial, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm & 6:30 - 8:30 pm (Room 220)  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 - 7 pm (Room 326)

### Friday, January 5

Free Food Fridays, 9 - 11 am (Offsite)  
Al-Anon, 6:30 - 8 pm (Library)  
AA, 7 - 8 pm (Room 209)

### Saturday, January 6

Men's Bible Study, 8 - 9 am (Offsite)  
Bereavement Group, 10 - 11:15 am (Room 215)

### Sunday, January 7

Session Meets New Members, 8:30 - 8:45 am (2nd Floor Lounge)  
Worship Service 9 am (Sanctuary & Livestream Available)  
Youth Middle Hour, 10 - 11 am (Room 315)  
Adult Middle Hour, 10 - 11 am (Barbour Chapel)  
New Member Reception, 10:10 - 11 am (Fellowship Hall)  
Worship Service, 11 am (Sanctuary)  
Girl Scouts, 1 - 2 pm (Room 310)  
Worship Service, 5 pm (Barbour Chapel)

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



## 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  
@GPMCNNews  
#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-Giving](http://bit.ly/GPMC-Giving),  
or text "GPMC" to 73256.

## STAFF AT GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

The Reverend Dr. Jeff Lincicome  
*Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Reverend Jasmine Smart  
*Transitional Associate Pastor*

Dan Aggas  
*Head Sexton*

James Biery  
*Minister of Music and Organist*

Dave Buckler  
*GPMC Treasurer*

Marie Calcaterra  
*Director of Mornings at Memorial*

Lindsay Cameron  
*Director of Communications*

Susan Griffin  
*Director of Accounting*

Donna Hartzell  
*Executive Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator*

Tena Harwick  
*Assistant Accounting Manager*

Julie Huellmantel  
*Director of Outreach Ministries*

Carson Landry  
*Resident Carillonneur*

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*

Carol Ambrogio Wood  
*Admin. Assistant for Membership & Christian Education*