KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"

NOVEMBER 22, 2026
REIGN OF CHRIST



Art: Separation of Sheep and Goats (Byzantine, early 20th century). Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Object 24.144.4).
Prayer: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, copyright 2002 Consultation on Common Texts.

Shepherd of Israel, hear our prayer
as your Son heard the plea
of the criminal crucified with him.
Gather into Christ's holy reign
the broken, the sorrowing, and the sinner,
that all may know
wholeness, joy, and forgiveness. Amen.

THE GATHERING

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—with whatever joys, questions, or tears you bring today—as we worship God, who welcomes us all! You are invited to listen for God's Spirit speaking to you through the music of the Prelude as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Bold type *indicates congregational response.*

Where there is an ***asterisk, we are invited to stand together in God's Spirit.***

PRELUDE Elevation in F major Op. 39 No. 1 Alex Guilmant

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.
Let us worship God.

***DOXOLOGY 607** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all creatures here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

***OPENING RESPONSES**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name.
Make known God's deeds among the peoples!
God calls us into relationship
and forms us into one holy people,
Therefore, shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.
O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

***HYMN 363** Rejoice, the Lord Is King! Darwall's 148th

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, you created us to love you and one another.
We confess that we have sometimes limited that love to words
and failed to make that love real by our actions.
We have failed to recognize Christ in the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless,
the naked, the incarcerated, and the sick.
Too often, we have turned away from your presence, failing to share what we have with our brothers and sisters in need.
Forgive us. Turn our hearts
and guide us to follow in your ways anew.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 467 Give Us Light, v 4,5 Jyothi Dho

Save us now; save us now; save us now, O Lord.
Give us grace; give us grace; give us grace, O Lord.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Friends, God raised Jesus from death, breaking the power of sin and evil.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ in the covenant of life eternal.
The same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles, redeems us and all creation.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ!

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks. Live holy and joyful lives, watching for God's new heaven and new earth, as we work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Please stand and take a moment to share Christ's peace with others.

***GLORIA 583** Glory to God Gloria

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING

All children are invited to join us at the front of the sanctuary.

Children: You are loved!
Congregation: **You are loved!**

Infants & children through age 3 are invited to our nursery, Room 211.
All school-aged children can return to their families in the sanctuary.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us to hear your Word that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe; and believing,
we may follow your way in all faithfulness,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. Amen.

FIRST READING Ephesians 1:15-23 New Testament p.192

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Let All the World in Every Corner Sing Walter L. Pelz

Let all the world in every corner sing: "My God and King!"
The heavens are not too high, God's praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low, God's praises there may grow.
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out.
But more, more than all, the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing: "My God and King!"

SECOND READING Matthew 25:31-46 New Testament p.29

For the Word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON Reign of Christ

***HYMN 320** The Church of Christ in Every Age Wareham

THE THANKSGIVING

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH AND PSA

We give thanks to God and live our faith, offering ourselves through worship, work, service, and love in all its forms.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Freely we receive at the hand of God; freely let us open our hands
for the work of God. Let us worship God with our offerings.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE 647** Give Thanks *(no repeats)*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We think what we offer in these moments is not that much, or can't accomplish anything of worth, but with you, Holy God, all things are possible.
So, we trust you will use these gifts, multiply them,
as we offer them to those who need hope, healing, grace, and peace in their lives.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

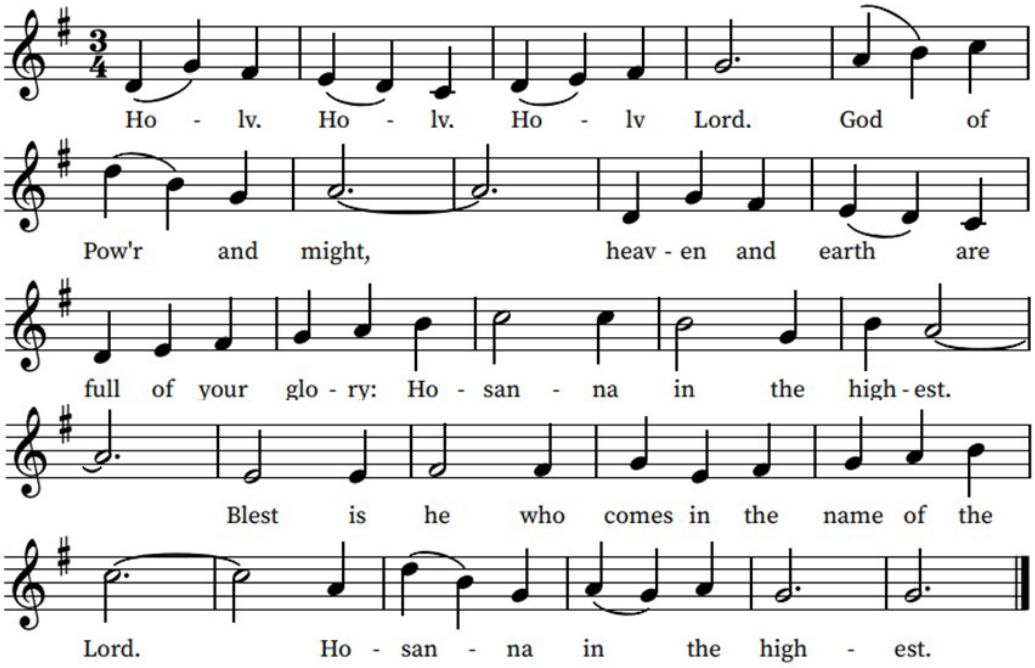
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise…

SANCTUS 572



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, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

To receive the elements: beginning with the front rows, come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle. Approach the servers with your hands cupped to receive the bread (all is gluten free). Then each person may choose a) to share intinction by dipping the bread into the common cup, or b) taking a small juice cup from the tray. If you prefer to receive the elements from your seat, please raise your hand, and communion will be served to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Lord of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living,
he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup
bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children
shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name;
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

***HYMN 263** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! Coronation

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Paso in D minor Narciso Casanovas

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PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
The Rev. Joshua Bode
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Reader
Mark Loehrke

Acolyte
Deb Bender

Music
FPC Choir
Bill Cessna, organist
Hal Hobson-Morse, director

Communion Servers
Mike Boersma
Victoria Coleman
Beth Dyer
Janet Lawing
Laurie Tupper
Kim Van Lou

Sound & Video Team
Bob Murray
Mark Ohrstrom

Greeters
Paul & Donna Schonveld
(South)
Mark Loehrke
(Lovell)

DEACON'S PRAYERS

As a community of faith, we offer one another the gift of intentional prayer through our weekly rotation of deacons and parish groups. We uplift in prayer JIM MULCRONE and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence. If you are in this group, stop by the Gathering Place near the name tags after worship to say hello to your deacon.

Greg Chambers	Elizabeth Hamilton	Sally Pitt-Van Buren
Becky Chambers	Justin Hassler	Linda Swope
Shelly Denny	Karen Hassler	Phyllis Thomas
Derick Elliott	Elaine Johns	Tom Thomas
Sairi Elliott	Ron Johns	Phil Torrence
Jen Freeland	Diane Johnson	Sarah Torrence
Matt Freeland	Carol McCloud	Jim Van Buren
Lana Griffin	Donald McCloud	Richard Van Enk
Andy Hamilton	Craig Oliver	Jonathan Willoughby
	Kelsey Oliver	

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Nursery

The nursery is open each Sunday, starting fifteen minutes before worship, for children age 3 and under (Room 211). Parents will be given a pager in the event they need to be reached during worship. Please pick your child up immediately following worship.

Sunday School

School-aged children are invited to stay in worship and experience Communion with their families. Also, it's Christmas Program time! If you haven't already let Meredith know that your school-aged child(ren) will participate, now is the time! There will be a rehearsal immediately after worship on Nov. 29th.

Youth Group/T.A.G.

All middle and high school students are invited to join us! Mark your calendars!

- Sunday, November 29, 5:30-7:00p.m. - Christmas/Holiday Party and gift exchange (bring $10 wrapped gift)
- Friday, December 4, 5:00 p.m. - 10th/11th/12th graders meet Meredith for dinner
- Sunday, December 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m. - All youth meet at the church to participate in the Christmas Chocolate event, followed by the candlelight service
- Sunday, December 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m. - MOVIE NIGHT!
- December 27 and January 3, Christmas break - no T.A.G./Youth Group
- Sunday, January 10, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the church

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Morning Men's Fellowship

Join us weekly, on Tuesdays, at Panera Bread on West Main at 7:30 a.m. New faces are always welcome as we share connection and create community!

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

There is no meet-up this holiday week. On December 1, we will continue with chapters 6 and 7 of *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Library.

Taking Root

Our group for 20-somethings, will host a monthly Meal Prep Event at First Congregational Church on Sunday, December 6 starting at 11:30 a.m. This event is for any 20-something looking to connect with peers and do a little meal prep at the same time! For more information, please contact Meredith. Scan the QR code to sign-up.

Women's Bible Study – Advent Retreat

An Advent retreat is a dedicated time of spiritual pause, prayer and reflection during the weeks of Advent. Instead of getting swept up in the busy December rush of shopping and holiday planning, participants step back to focus on the deeper meaning of the season. This three-week, weekly Advent Retreat will begin on Thursday, December 3 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 306. At 9:45 we will take the time to quiet ourselves for prayer and conversation based on Scripture and the booklet, "Sacred Space for Advent and Christmas." You are welcome to attend one, two, or all three of these mini retreats. Pat Stromsta will facilitate.

TIS THE SEASON...

November 26,27	Happy Thanksgiving! Building Closed
November 29	Advent Crafting with family,1
December 5	WMU concerts: *A Choral Christmas*, 4 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.
December 6	Church Bazaar in the Dining Room after morning worship Taizé Service, Pine Island Chapel, 5:30 p.m.
December 8	Office Closed at Noon for Staff Christmas event
December 13	Children's Christmas Program during morning worship service Christmas Chocolate, 5 p.m. Candlelight Lessons and Carols, 6 p.m.
December 18	Holiday Jazz Concert with the Bill Cessna Trio, 7 p.m.
December 20	Koinonia fellowship, Pine Island Chapel, 5:30 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services, 7 & 11 p.m.
December 25	Merry Christmas! Building Closed
December 28-31	Office and Building Closed
December 31	New Year's Fest: A Performing Arts Festival, 6 p.m.-Midnight

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Flower Sale

Honor or remember a loved one this holiday season with a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary. Orders are due by December 6. Dedications in memory or in honor of cherished friends and family will be listed in our worship bulletins during the week of Christmas.

Mitten Tree

The Martha Circle Mitten Tree is back! Find it in the Gathering Place through December 13 and generously donate NEW WARM mittens, hats and gloves. Let's work together to fill the tree and show our love and warmth for our CTV neighbors this winter.

Attending to Advent: Advent Devotional

The weeks leading up to Christmas are often filled with shopping lists, travel plans and year-end responsibilities. In the midst of the busyness, *Attending to Advent* invites readers to pause and enter more deeply into the story of Christ's birth. Originally published in 2022, this daily devotional features poetry and prose reflections curated and written by *Presbyterian Outlook* Editor/Publisher Teri McDowell Ott alongside contributing editors Kathryn Lester-Bacon and Arlin Buyert. Each week explores a different figure in the Nativity story — Mary, Joseph, Herod, the Christ Child — offering fresh theological insight into familiar passages. Along the way, the devotions connect the biblical narrative with contemporary questions about parenting, power, violence, vulnerability, hope and God's ongoing work in the world.

Devotionals are available in the Narthex and the Gathering Place. The booklet is designed to be read beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29. A digital version is also available by email request to Pastor Chrissy (*chrissyw@fpckzoo.org*)

Advent Crafting

On November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, let's gather after worship in the Dining Room for an Advent and Christmas crafting workshop. The card makers and others from the congregation will share simple crafts for decorating your home or giving as gifts. This event is for all ages and skill levels. Join us in joyful preparation for the season of Advent.

CTV Christmas Party Time

Give the gift of a warm hug this year with a classic hoodie! We are collecting **new,** adult-sized hoodies for the annual Christmas party for our CTV guests. Please drop your donations in the box outside Meredith's office. Thank you!

From Just Sanctuary…

"We are less when we don't include everyone." -Stuart Milk

Support Troop 205 – Holiday Wreath Fundraiser!

Get into the holiday spirit while supporting local Scouts! Troop 205 will be selling beautiful holiday wreaths on December 6 and December 13 as part of their annual fundraising efforts. Your purchase helps support the troop's activities, adventures, and opportunities throughout the year. We appreciate the continued support of our church family and community. Thank you for helping Troop 205 make this holiday season a little brighter!

Holiday Jazz Concert

We are excited to host the Bill Cessna Trio as they present holiday jazz music on Friday, December 18, in the Sanctuary. Join us from 7-8 p.m. Tickets at the door will be at-will donations collected in support of the FPC Community Benevolence, which helps neighbors with everything from utilities and eviction notices, to transportation and weather safety.

Music at FPC

Church Choir and The Red Door Ringers bell choir are open to anyone in high school or older. They rehearse on Thursdays generally. No prior experience is required to participate in either, and you are welcome to come and try it out.

Hearing Assistance

The sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop system. Use your T-coil-enabled hearing aid or borrow loop-compatible headphones from the sound booth.

Name Tags

Wearing your name tag at church may seem like a small thing, but it can have a substantial impact on everyone's comfort. Name tags help bridge generations, support inclusivity, and make volunteers and leaders more approachable. If you need a new name tag, please reach out to Kelly in the office. Thank you for always making people feel loved at FPC!

Wednesday Noon Prayer Service

Our Wednesday Noon Prayer Service is a small, informal gathering offering space for quiet reflection and renewal. Scripture, prayer, and moments of stillness accompanied by gentle piano music offer an atmosphere of peace and quiet joy.

Noisy Coins

Just a reminder to bring your loose change to church and toss it in the offering plates. All loose coins go to the Deacons' Benevolence Fund which exists to help church members with emergency needs.

LAST CALL FOR "YOU ARE LOVED" SWAG ORDERS!

EMAIL *MEREDITHA@FPCKZOO.ORG* TODAY!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Warm-up,** Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery,** #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship/Communion,** Sanctuary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute (R.I.),** Dining Rm/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA,** #300
- 12:00 p.m. **Walking Grp,** Lovell Entrance
- 6:00 p.m. **Orchestra Rouh,** #306
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts,** Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Thoughtful Readers,** #300

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
- 7:30 a.m. **Men's Fellowship,** Panera Bread, West Main Street
- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I.,** Dining Rm/#308
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal**
- 1:00 p.m. **OLLI,** #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Orchestra Rouh,** #306
- 6:00 p.m. **PEO- CN,** #301
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal. Pipe Band,** Dining Room
- 6:45 p.m. **Kalamazoo Male Chorus**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I.,** Dining Rm/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service,** Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal,** Sanctuary

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Office and Building Closed

Happy Thanksgiving! You are loved!



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Office and Building Closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Warm-up,** Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery,** #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship,** Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School, PreK-5th gr.**
- 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. **Christmas Crafting Workshop,** Dining Room

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OFFICE HOURS
9 AM–3 PM, MON-THURS

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
fpckzoo.org
Facebook.com/ASanctuaryInTheCity
269.344.0119

CHURCH STAFF (in alphabetical order)

Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth, Families, Outreach, x208	mereditha@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Joshua Bode, Interim Pastor, x203	joshb@fpckzoo.org
Kelly Bosk, Operations Coordinator, x205	kellys@fpckzoo.org
Bill Cessna, Organist, x214	billc@fpckzoo.org
Hal Hobson-Morse, Director of Music, x223	halhm@fpckzoo.org
Logan McCafferty, Custodian	loganm@fpckzoo.org
Dawn Reitano, Communications Coordinator, x209	dawnr@fpckzoo.org
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213	shawns@fpckzoo.org
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206	louiset@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x204	chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

South Lobby Receptionists, x221: Kailynn Bachman, Jennie Barry, Sandy Sinotte

Custodians: Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt **Library:** library@fpckzoo.org

Upcoming Downtown Worship Services

November 29, 10 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

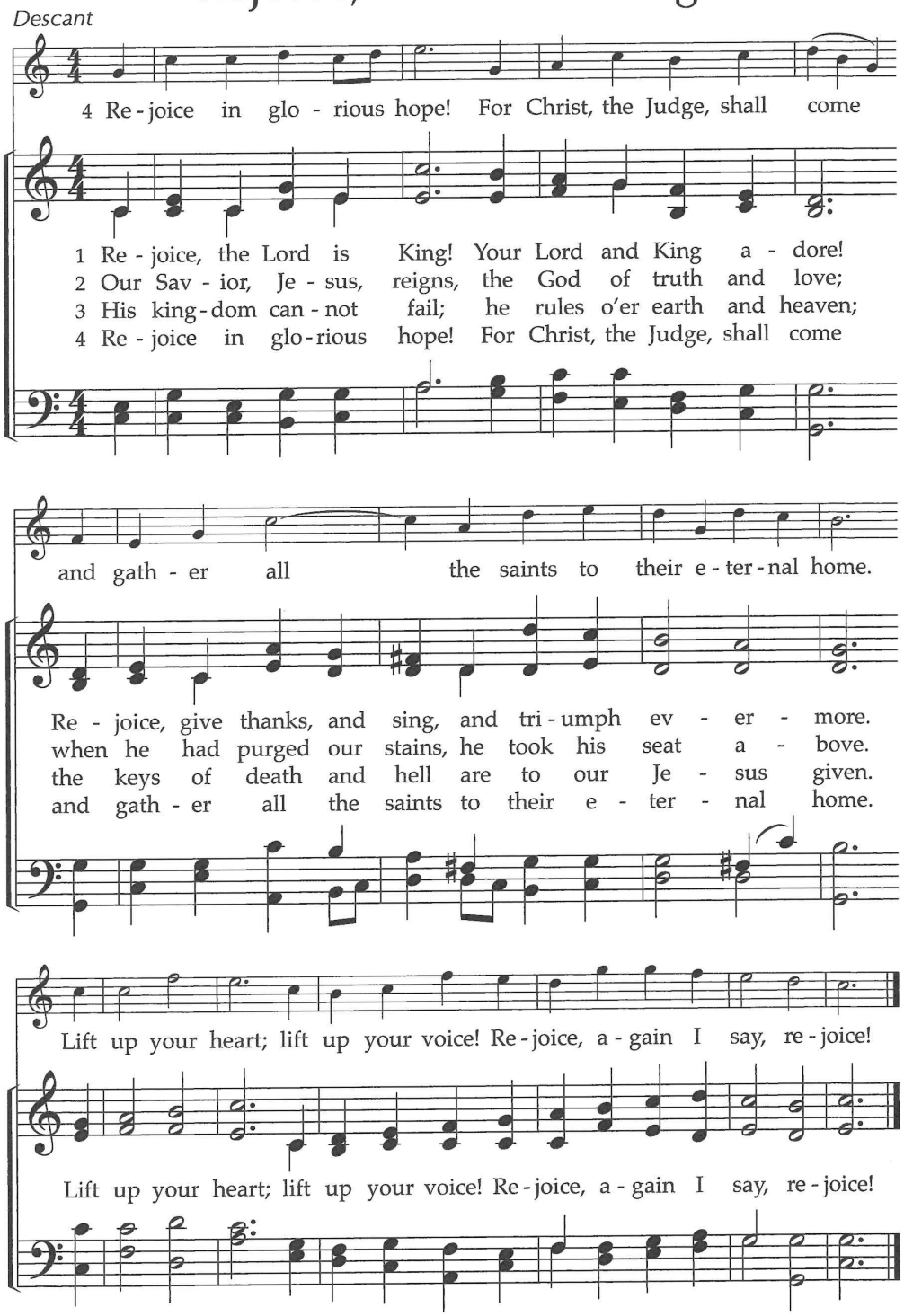
December 6, 10 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Joshua Bode
Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 10 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Program
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28

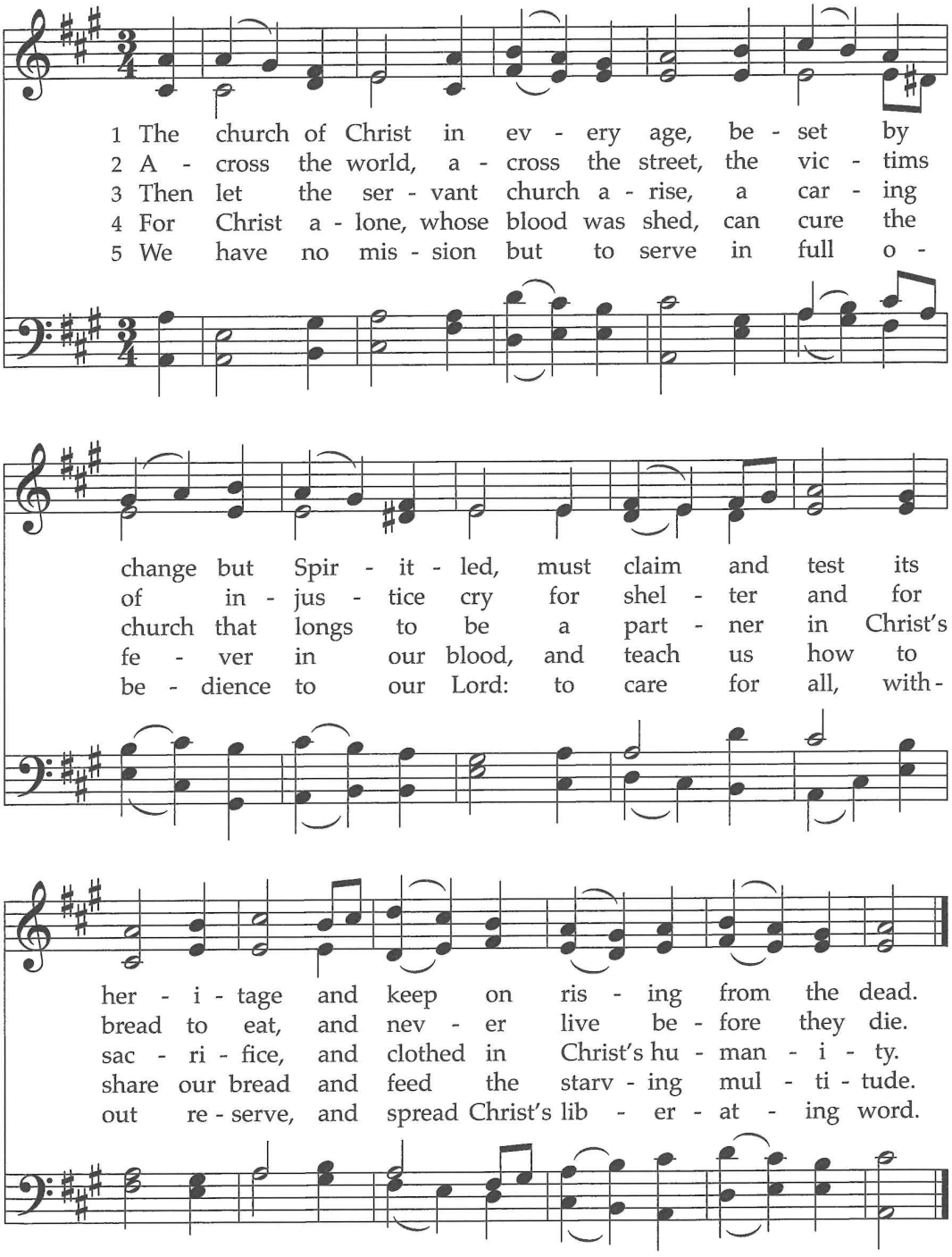
December 13, 6 p.m.
Candlelight Lessons and Carols
Join us for
Christmas Chocolate at 5 p.m.

Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world. Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice… all to the glory of God.

Rejoice, the Lord Is King! 363



320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

