

*Home for Christmas
...a thrill of Hope*



Peace

WELCOME!

We hope worship today nurtures your heart and transforms your mind. At PRCC, we realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, knowing we are a work in progress. No matter who you are, where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Le Badinage

Marais

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

O come, O come, Immanuel,

And be light for our darkness.

Be comfort in our grief,

Be a friend for our loneliness,

An oasis for our searching.

O come, O come, Immanuel,

Restore our joy, heal our wounds, and bring us peace.

***HYMN**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

5

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.

Advent Candles are lit

PRAYER OF ANTICIPATION

God in this season

suspended between hope and fulfillment,

let us never forget what you have done.

May we be overwhelmed by your mercy,

which flows in wave after wave.

May we be honest about the darkness within us,

and perceptive of the light around us.

May we make straight the path for the Lord,

that together we may see God's glory revealed. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

Gloria,

in excelsis Deo!

Gloria,

in excelsis Deo!

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*And the Glory of the Lord from **The Messiah***

Handel

PASTORAL PRAYER

PREACHING LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

This is the word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Road to Peace

Pastor Carol Hill

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Tenochtitlan

Bennett

***DOXOLOGY** (*tune What Child Is This?*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

This, this, is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing

Haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of mercy and grace, we pray that the gifts we offer this morning might be used to bring some peace to the chaos that is our world. We give these gifts in love, hoping they will heal some of the hurting; and as they do, make the crooked road straight for the coming of the Christ. May the hills that separate us from sisters and brothers be made flat and may the valleys of our isolation be raised up, so we will be ready to welcome the Christ as one. In that holy name, we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

***HYMN**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

POSTLUDE

* INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY AND SPIRIT, IF ABLE

BOLD INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE, IF ABLE

LEADING US IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 5, 2021 10:00 AM

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister	Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister	Angie & Andrew Weber, musicians
Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services	Sue Douglass, organist
Angie Do, Seminary Student Intern	PRCC Chancel Choir
Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Services	Jane Kenas-Heller, pianist
Morgan Tone, Director of Children's Services	Brian Torosian, guitar
Ginny Jacobson, lector	
The Young Family, Advent Candle lighters	
Ushers: Barb Madro, Marty McHugh, Chris Browning, Gretchen Kapolnek, Dave Kapolnek, Jim Sindt, Brandon Steele, Dave Figgins, and Joe Figgins	

Credits: Call to Worship written by *Dr. Derek C. Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, Discipleship Ministries of the UMC*

Opening Prayer Adapted from weekly Advent reflections by Mark Pierson, <http://adventinart.org>. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/08/advent-prayer-between-hope-and.html>

Prayer of Thanksgiving from the Board of Discipleship, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/come-home-for-christmas/second-sunday-of-advent-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/second-sunday-of-advent-year-c-offertory-prayers>

Next Sunday, December 12th, we will join together for ONE service at 10 am to experience the Story of Christmas told by our children.

PRAYER REQUESTS

One of the gifts of community is that hold one another in prayer. Each week, we share our joys and sorrows with one another so that we might feel the support of community. No one is alone. God is with us, and we are supporting one another.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR LOVED ONES:

Heather Cannon, Kylie Figgins, Jon Forsythe, Edith E. Hurlburt, Tom Kapolnek, Candace Kidston, Walter and Christina Kotecki, Geri LeDuc, Lurana Nelson, Leo Netko, Dean Muenzer, Reggie Pantazi, Susan Ruth, Ann Stutts, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, Kate Zoellner.

- Birthdays this week include Janet J. and Jean L. on 11/29; Luan Z. on 12/1; Lilly W. 12/2 and Kayleigh P., Sue D. and Bill N. all have birthdays on 12/4;
- We celebrate the time spent with loved ones this week near and far.
- Charlie G. asks for prayers for his extended family as different loved ones face medical issues.
- Dave K. asks us to hold his brother Tom in our prayers. His team discovered an abnormality, and while they have confirmed it is not cancer, they are still discerning what the problem is and how to best treat it. Prayers for patience, clarity, and God's peace with all.
- Please hold Mark H's good family friend Jeremy, in your prayers as he is in serious condition with a rare form of cancer and is being transferred to Mount Sinai hospital in Los Angeles for treatment.
- Bernice Z has asked us to pray for her nieces' husband Mike B who is scheduled for surgery.
- Bernice also asks for prayers for her granddaughter Lillian who has taken an important step in seeking treatment for her depression and other mental health conditions.
- Please hold Tim M in your prayers as he prepares for back surgery on Tuesday, followed by time in the hospital and ongoing recovery. Prayers for Sally as well as she cares for him.
- We hold in our prayers the family & friends of Thomas McNamara, Peggy Fergus's father, who entered life in the resurrection on 11/23.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers this week are in celebration of Nate Jarvis on his 14th Birthday!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT FESTIVAL - TODAY

We are so excited for our upcoming Advent Festival this year! It will take place on **Sunday, December 5th** from 3-5 pm. There will be many exciting things happening. We will have crafts, cookies and hot chocolate, Christmas carols and a petting zoo featuring nativity animals! We will have most of our activities outside but will come inside to hear our wonderful Junior Choir at 4:30 while enjoying cookies and cocoa. We can't wait to celebrate Advent with you!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 12th at the 10 am service

If your child would like to participate in this years pageant, please let Morgan and Shelley know!

KINDRED SPIRITS CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 14th at noon

Join us for a time of fellowship and beautiful music provided by Lynn Brant, Edde Young, and Karen Nelson!

VOLUNTEER!

SIMPLE SUPPER

If you would like to volunteer to provide the meal for our Thursday Simple Supper, you can do so here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094baeab2da4fb6-simple>

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Night Ministry has a need for winter boots for clients in their health outreach programs. The most requested sizes are men's size 8-13 and women's size 6-11. Boots may be brand new or gently used and in good condition. They are unable to accept boots with odor, missing laces or noticeable wear or scuffs. **Our goal is 30 pairs of boots!**

School Supplies - We are still in need of hand sanitizer.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

As we reflect on the many reasons for which we have to be thankful, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) asks you to consider the ways in which we can show our gratitude towards our many staff members. During these fall and winter months leading us to the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas, our staff dedicates countless hours to the additional services and events to support our church family and the wider community. These past two years have presented many obstacles for ministry; however, our staff has risen to each challenge and found ways to creatively serve and minister to our PRCC family.

Just as the year end provides us with the opportunity to show our appreciation for mail carriers, teachers, day care providers, and hairdressers, we ask that you consider showing your gratitude for our staff through a holiday donation. Donations can be made through PayPal, Zelle, or check indicating the message **Staff Holiday Gift**. The deadline for a contribution will be December 15th. The SPRC committee will gather contributions and distribute them to staff as the year end approaches. Thank you for thoughtfully considering a gift to show our staff your sincere gratitude for their ministry.



ADULT CHRISTIAN ED

ADULT ED: Tuesday Daytime Bible Study: Disciple II - Into the Word, Into the World

Disciple II invites participants to consider scripture as we get into the Word of God through Scripture and apply it to our lives in the world. We will hear about historical context, explore meanings of the original Hebrew texts and apply the Torah to everyday life. In the first 16 weeks, we will explore Genesis and Exodus, and then in 2022, this study will pick up Luke and Acts as we see how the early church applied these basic teachings that are so foundational to the community of faith. We will meet in the library, OR participants can choose to join over

zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81599270512?pwd=VWQzc3R0SEVHNzJraXNQOWdPOW1aQT09>

ADULT ED: Thursday Evening Bible Study: Christmas Stories

Join us on Thursday evenings at 6 pm for Christmas Stories in the parlor. There will be time for sharing stories, quiet prayer and meditation, and hearing a Christmas story read from "Christmas Joy."

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come experience one of the most rewarding ways to serve in our church! We are looking for Sunday School teachers, helpers, and volunteers for Children's Ministry events. We will be planning in advance and delegating responsibilities so you know exactly what and when we need you! Contact Shelley to sign up and join the team!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you would like to register for the coming Sunday School year, you may do so through the Church Office, by contacting Shelley O'Brien, or on our website - <https://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/christian-education>.

VOLUNTEER IN THE NURSERY!

We are currently looking for volunteers to be on call to work the Nursery during Sunday Worship. This would be strictly as needed, if a family came in needing nursery care, the Ushers would let you know. If you are interested in signing up, please do so here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094baeab2da4fb6-nursery>

Thank you in advance for helping us to accommodate all families.



Advent Festival

Sunday, Dec. 5th

3:00-5:00pm

Come and hear the Nativity Story from the perspective of those who kept watch over the animals and flocks by night!

Come! See, touch, and smell the gifts of Frankincense and Myrrh!

We are so excited for our upcoming Advent Festival this year! It will take place on Sunday, December 5th from 3-5 pm.

3:00-4:30: Church Lawn

Travel around, pet live animals, and hear the stories from

- A Shepherd watching their flocks by night with sheep and goats
- Mary and Joseph and the journey on a donkey
- Wisemen preparing their gifts of Frankincense and Myrrh

We will also have crafts and a photo booth!

4:30-5:00: Great Hall

Come inside to hear our wonderful Junior Choir while enjoying cookies and hot cocoa.

We can't wait to celebrate Advent with you!