

WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
PORT HURON



First Sunday of Christmas
Lessons and Carols
December 31, 2023 – 10:00 AM
Lay Leader Erin Peyerk and Others

~Let Us Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship~

LESSONS AND CAROLS

PROCESSIONAL AND PRELUDE

Organist Gary Rhody

(During the Prelude, please quietly take time, to prepare your heart and mind for God's presence in worship)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lay Leader Erin Peyerck

Please remember to sign the Friendship Register, so we know you are here. Please pass it to others in your pew and greet each other after worship. Giving us your contact information is very helpful so we can stay in touch with you, especially if you are a visitor and this is your first time, worshipping with us. Welcome to all of you, if you are new, or have been here several times before. We are glad you have chosen to worship God this morning.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist Matt Lozen

Good news! Great joy!

Jesus Christ is born the Savior of the world!

Good news! Great joy!

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" #41

Organist Gary

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist Matt

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Liturgist Matt

Holy God, You have come among us in Jesus Christ. He shared our humanity and has loved us dearly. But so often we are exhausted from the high expectations of the Christmas season. We forget that Your peace can replace our fears. We don't look for Your light in the

**shadows of this world’s darkness. Forgive us, Lord, for ignoring You.
Help us to appreciate Your love and mercy.**

(A moment of silent prayer to confess our own personal sins) **Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Responsively)

Liturgist Matt

“Arise and shine; for your light has come.”

The radiance of God’s glory is in Jesus Christ.

Open your eyes and see the mercy of the Lord.

In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without
end. Amen. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Lay Leader Erin

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lay Leader Erin

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON AND CAROL: Isaiah 11:1–3a, 4a, 6

Reader 1

BACKGROUND TO THE CAROL “THE FIRST NOWELL”

Reader 1

CAROL: “The First Nowell” (Verses 1, 2, and 3) #56 Pianist Elizabeth Roe

SECOND LESSON AND CAROL: Micah 5: 2-5a (Responsively) Reader 2

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me, One who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of His kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God.

And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and He shall be the One of peace.

Matthew 2: 1-6 (Responsively)

Reader 3

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage.”

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

BACKGROUND TO THE CAROL “Once in Royal David’s City”

Reader 2

Carol: “Once in Royal David’s City” (Verses 1 and 2) #49 Pianist Elizabeth

THIRD LESSON AND CAROL Luke 2: 1-4

Reader 4

BACKGROUND TO THE CAROL, “Away in a Manger”

Reader 4

Carol: “Away in a Manger (Verses 1 and 3) #24

Organist Gary

FOURTH LESSON AND CAROL: Matt. 1: 20-23/Luke 1: 26-35 Reader 5
An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

BACKGROUND TO CAROL, “Angels We Have Heard on High” Reader 6

*Carol:

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (Verses 1 and 3) #23 Pianist Elizabeth

FIFTH LESSON AND CAROL: Luke 2: 5-7 Reader 7

BACKGROUND TO CAROL “Silent Night” Reader 7

Carol: “Silent Night, Holy Night” (Verses 1 through 4) #60 Organist Gary

SIXTH LESSON AND CAROL: Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1: 38, 46-49 Reader 8

BACKGROUND TO “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” Reader 8

Carol: “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (Verses 1 and 3) #27 Organist Gary

SEVENTH LESSON AND CAROL Luke 2: 8-14 Reader 9

BACKGROUND TO “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Reader 9

Carol:

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (Verse 1 and 2) #31 Pianist Elizabeth

EIGHTH LESSON AND CAROL: Luke 2: 15- 20 Reader 10

BACKGROUND TO “Go Tell It On the Mountain” Reader 10

***Carol:**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (Verses 1 and 3) #29 Pianist Elizabeth

NINTH LESSON AND CAROL (Responsively) Isaiah 9: 2,6 Reader 11

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

**those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.**

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.

BACKGROUND TO “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” Reader 11

Carol:

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (Verses 2 and 3) #28 Pianist Elizabeth

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lay Leader Erin

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Liturgist Matt

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Pianist Elizabeth

*DOXOLOGY

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.

*CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World!" (Verses 1 and 4) #40 Organist Gary

*BENEDICTION (Responsively)

Lay Leader Erin

By His birth, Jesus has gathered together, both heaven and earth;
May He fill us with the sweetness of His peace,
the energy of His joy,
And the tenderness of His love. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Organist Gary

†††

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH FRIENDSHIP: Please sign the Friendship Register. Make sure others around you have a chance to sign it, also. **We welcome all of you to the worship of God, especially those who are visitors.** We welcome you as part of our church family; please give us your e-mail or phone

number so we can make you aware of other events happening in the church. The Friendship Sheets go in the Offering Plates.

THANK YOU for sharing your gifts with us! Our lay preacher today is Erin Peyerk. Our liturgist today is Matt Lozen. The greeter today is Mark Schian. The coffee hour host is Pat Schattler. The sanctuary flowers are provided by David and Barb Wright in Honor of the New Year!

PNC PRAYER TIME: Prayer is critical as Churches and Pastors discern what is in their future. Please pray each day for insight and energy for the PNC: Steve Ahlquist, Rick Cameron, Jennie Carolan, Jacquie Green, Linda Hall, Judith McLean.

SANCTURARY FLOWERS/COFFEE HOUR HOST: There are available dates in the months of January and February. Please sign-up in the book located on the office counter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- FINANCIAL COUNTERS: The finance team is looking for one or two church members willing to come count the weekly offerings on Monday mornings with a partner. Please let the church know if you are interested by email portpresby@gmail.com or phone.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THIS SEASON:

- *Christmas Ornament Sale:* The Christmas Ornament sale table is set-up in the Gathering Room. If making a monetary donation, please make your check out to Blue Water Community Food Depot and please indicate “Paper Ornament Sale” in the memo line.
- *Food Depot:* Please remember those who are suffering from food insecurities by donating non-perishable food to the Bluewater Community Food Depot. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Please indicate “Food Depot” in memo line if donating by check.
- *Stewardship:* Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024 or give on a regular basis to the ministry of this church. If you would like the opportunity to give, there are pledge cards on the office counter.

THANK YOU: The Deacons would like to thank the congregation for the angel tree donations. We served 6 families and 24 children with gifts and food baskets.

MEMORY CHRISTMAS TREE: Place an ornament on the Blue Christmas tree in the Gathering room in memory of a loved one or just something close to your heart that you are missing this year during the holidays.

“PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS” SIGNS: Please pick up a yard sign from the office vestibule. Our schools really need our prayers and others in our neighborhoods need to be encouraged to pray for our schools, also. Pick up a sign today.

LARGE PRINT HYMNS AND BULLETINS: Large print hymnals and bulletins are available for use during the worship service. Please let the ushers know if you would like one for the service.

PRINTED SERMONS: Pastor Roxie’s printed sermons are available on the table near the church office desk.

FUTURE EVENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!: The office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.

STITCH AND CHAT: Stitch and Chat will not meet again until January due to the holidays.

ADULT CLASS “NOOMA”: This class will resume meeting on January 17, 2024. There will be no class on January 3rd or 10th, due to Pastor Roxie time off to see her family. Please join us upon her return.

ADULT CLASS “THE BACKSTORY”: There will be no class for the next two weeks. This class will resume meeting on January 18, 2024 due to Pastor Roxie’s time off to see her family. Please join us upon her return.

PASTOR/CHILDREN CLASS: Pastor Roxie will lead a once-a-month Class for Children of all ages, after each month’s Communion Worship Service. Communion, Baptism, 10 Commandments; Great Commandment and Great Commission, Disciples, Books of the Bible are just some of the topics to be taught. Families: Mark your calendars for both parents and children to attend these classes which will help children learn important

Biblical facts. Typically the class will be from **11:30-12:00 p.m.**, after the First Sunday Worship every month. **The first Sunday in this Pastor/Children Class will be January 14th** (Communion is on the second Sunday in January because of Pastor Roxie's vacation).

TRAINING NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS: Pastor Roxie will hold a training for all new Elders and Deacons, who were elected during the Congregational Election Meeting. If you did not come to the training last Monday evening, please plan to come on **Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM** for the training session. You will attend the Session meeting, **at 7:00 PM**, following the training on the same day, to be approved as new Deacons and Elders.

WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION FOR NEWCOMERS (W.I.N.) CLASS: The W.I.N. class is on **Sunday, January 21, 2024, following worship at 11:15 AM**. If you are interested in knowing more about the Presbyterian Church or desire to join the church in membership, please come to the W.I.N. class. Or if you want to renew your membership, this is a great opportunity. Anyone desiring to join the church will be able to talk with the Elders on **Monday, February 12, 2024 during Session at 7:00 p.m.**

NEW CASUAL CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE: Beginning **Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.** Please join us for the new casual contemporary worship service held in the Community Activity Room in the Christian Education Wing. The services will be about 45 minutes long which will include relevant messages and contemporary worship music played by Price Smith. We would love to have you write your friends to join us this February!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Mon./1-1: Happy New Year! Office is closed.

Tues./1-2: Financial Counters 9:00 a.m.

Properties Meeting 3:00 p.m.

Wed./1-3: Stitch and Chat Resumes 10:00 a.m.

**Families with children: Please be advised that our worship service, including the Children's Message, is streamed live online. If you would not like your child's face in view, please sit with your child in the Parlor where the service is played on the TV.*

*First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron
811 Wall St. – Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 985-6191 / portpresby@gmail.com
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Facebook: @FirstPresbyterianChurchPort Huron
YouTube: 1st Presbyterian Church Port Huron
Website: fpcporthuron.org
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Roxie Davis
Financial Secretary: Kristie Lamb
Administrative Assistant: Laura Gaffney
Media/Marketing: Paige Cronce and Laura Gaffney
Custodian/Maintenance: Bill Briscoe
Nursery Attendant: Elizabeth Block
Nursery Assistant: Amy Block
Organist: Gary Rhody
Pianist: Elizabeth Roe*

***Our mission is know the Love of God,
grow in the Christian faith,
and go share our faith in Jesus Christ.***