



The **First**  
**Congregational**  
**Church** of Ann Arbor

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JOY

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**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

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*Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here.*

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## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

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### Silent Meditation

“For nothing is impossible with God.” -Luke 1:37

### Celebration of Community

Rev. Robert K. Livingston

### Advent Prelude

Timothy L. Huth, organist  
Barbara Sturgis-Everett

Méditation sur le 1re Prelude de JS Bach  
Charles Gonoud (1818-93)

Today's prelude uses Bach's Praeludium in C from the well-tempered Clavier, over which Gonoud laid a beautiful melody to which the Catholic prayer “Hail Mary” is set in Latin. In the Eastern Church especially, Mary is seen as “Theotokos,” or “God bearer.” The “Hail Mary” hearkens to the Gospel text from last Sunday, Luke 1:46-55, the “Magnificat.” This beautiful aria is haunting in its beauty regardless of text.

"Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death, Amen"

### Choral Introit

\* Processional Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

See insert

**\* Call to Worship**

Mike Dabbs

One: The day of Jesus' birth is drawing near!

**All: May his birth bring peace to all, O God.**

One: The long night of waiting is almost over as we anticipate the dawning of your great light, O God.

**All: May the coming of the Christ Child, fill our homes and hearts with the radiance of your love.**

One: Be with us now, as infant, as Spirit, as light!

**All: May the good news of your birth bring joy to all!**

One: Let us join together in one voice in prayer. Let us pray.

**\* Prayer of Invocation**

**Gracious God, be with us this day in worship. Pour out your loving spirit on all of us here gathered. As we anticipate the birth of Christ once again, open our minds and hearts to your presence that we might be filled with your goodness and love. Live in us that we might bear the light and love of Christ for all to see. Come to us, that we might be truly blessed and offer your blessing of hope and joy to the world, through Jesus we pray, who taught us when praying to say together...**

**\* 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.**

**\* 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.**

**Lighting of the Third  
Advent Candle:  
Joy**

Advent Family,  
Louis Young & MJ Quigley-Young

**Children's Circle**

Rev. Darcy Crain

(Children are invited to church school following children's circle.)

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## **GIVE, SHARE, REJOICE**

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**Offertory Sentences  
and Offertory**

Rev. Darcy Crain

**Anthem** "E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come"  
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

**\* 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.**

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Robert K. Livingston

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## **WE GROW IN OUR FAITH**

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**\* Hymn of Preparation**

"Mary, Woman of Promise"

See insert

**Readings**

Isaiah 61:1-4  
Luke 1:26-38

See insert

**Sermon**

"Dream"

Rev. Robert K. Livingston

**Solo**

Matthew Whitehead, soloist

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# WE GO FORTH TO LIVE AND SERVE

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**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Darcy Crain

**Choral Response**

\* **Recessional Hymn**

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

See insert

**Charge and  
Benediction**

Rev. Robert K. Livingston

**Choral Benediction**

**Postlude**

from Sonata III  
Heinrich Biber (1644-1704)

Our postlude is from 18th century mystic and composer Heinrich Biber, one of his 8 violin sonatas called the “Rosary” or “Mystical” sonatas. The Rosary is an ancient tool of meditation, a repetitive saying of sets of prayers over and over (Lord's prayer, Gloria Patri, Hail Mary, beginning with the Apostles' Creed), while reflecting on a portion of the Bible. Today we reflect on the “Third Joyful Mystery,” the birth of Jesus in the stable of Bethlehem.

\* Congregation Standing (Please feel free to remain seated if standing is difficult for you.)

The flowers on the altar are given on this third Sunday of Advent by Pam and Mike Dabbs as a reminder of the JOY which the nearness and meaning of Christmas brings. May we take time today to realize the JOY surrounding us in every aspect of our lives, especially by family and friends. Let our inner joy give us hope for the year to come and may it be filled with peace and happiness.

The First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor extends a cordial welcome and greeting to all who have joined us in this service of worship. Please join us upstairs in Pilgrim Hall after the service for refreshments and friendship during our Friendship Hour.

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786  
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

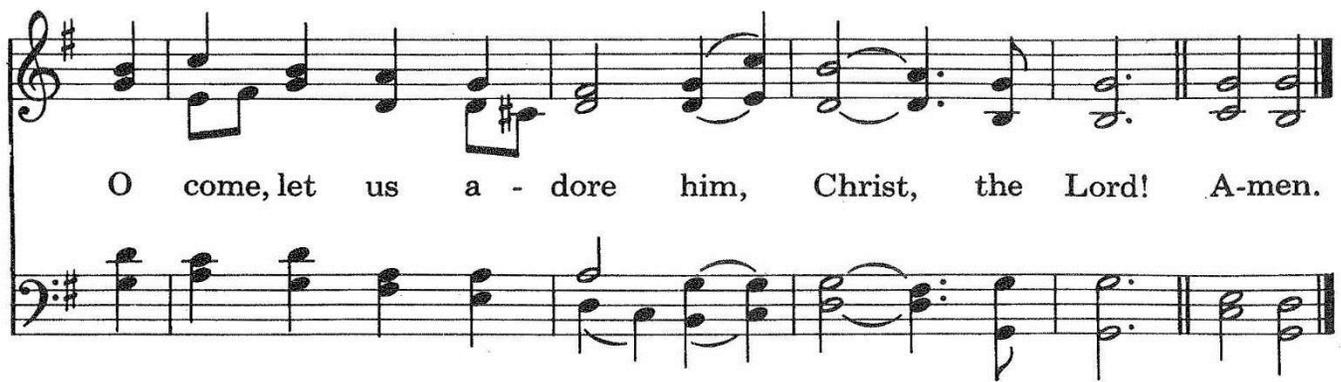
ADESTE FIDELES Irregular  
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



**Isaiah 61:1-4 (Pew Bible Page 678)**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

**Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible Page 931)**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

## Mary, Woman of the Promise

Luke 1:39-55

Mary Frances Fleischaker, 1988

1 Mar - y, wom - an of the prom - ise; ves - sel  
 2 Mar - y, song of ho - ly wis - dom sung be -  
 3 Mar - y, morn - ing star of jus - tice; mir - ror  
 4 Mar - y, mod - el of com - pas - sion; wound - ed  
 5 Mar - y, wom - an of the gos - pel; hum - ble

of your peo - ple's dreams: Through your o - pen,  
 fore the world be - gan: Faith - ful to the  
 of the Ra - diant Light: In the shad - ows  
 by your off - spring's pain: When our hearts are  
 home for trea - sured seed: Help us to be

will - ing spir - it wa - ters of God's good - ness streamed.  
 Word with - in you, as you bore God's won - drous plan.  
 of life's jour - ney, be a bea - con for our sight.  
 torn by sor - row, teach us how to love a - gain.  
 true dis - ci - ples, bear - ing fruit in word and deed.

*This text, selected as the winner in a regional Hymn Society competition seeking contemporary Marian hymns, portrays Mary's many roles in fulfilling God's promise. The author is an Adrian Dominican sister whose ministry has focused on worship and the arts.*

Tune: QUEM PASTORES 8.7.8.7.  
 German carol, 14th century  
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

# Angels, From the Realms of Glory

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James Montgomery, 1771-1854

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:  
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

REFRAIN

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.

BIRTH

## "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their all.



## 2017 Advent & Christmas Eve Schedule



December 17

Pageant script/costume pick-up (Church School Lobby) 11 am  
Wrapped in Love 5-7 pm \*\*\*Volunteers Still Needed\*\*\*

December 23

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 1 pm  
(Sheep, shepherds, and angels without lines do NOT need to attend)

December 24

Change of Pace with Special Music 9 am  
Chapel Communion 9:30 am  
Traditional Worship 10 am (Family Worship Sunday, no Church School)  
Live Nativity 4-8 pm \*\*\*Volunteers Still Needed\*\*\*  
Christmas Pageant 5:30 pm \*\*\*Volunteers Still Needed\*\*\*  
Candlelight Communion Service 8 pm



December 25

Merry Christmas! (No Church Services)



December 29

FCC Office Closed

December 31

Happy New Years Eve! (No Change of Pace)  
Chapel Communion 9:30 am  
Traditional Worship 10 am (One room Church School)  
January 1 Happy New Years! (FCC Office Closed)

\*\*\*Volunteers should reach out to Rachel Dudley, Director of Christian Education via email at [rachel@fccannarbor.org](mailto:rachel@fccannarbor.org), or by phone at 734.926.0552

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## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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**Welcome!** We are glad you joined us this Sunday and look forward to meeting and getting to know you. Please join us after the 10 a.m. service for refreshments and friendship in the Pilgrim Hall lobby and library areas. Please visit our website at [www.fccannarbor.org](http://www.fccannarbor.org) to learn more about our church.

**Sunday Worship** During our programming year (September through May), we offer our contemporary Change of Pace worship service in Pilgrim Hall at 9:00 a.m. There is a brief 15-minute communion service in our Douglas Memorial Chapel at 9:30 a.m. Our more traditional worship service is in the sanctuary at 10 a.m., and is normally followed by refreshments and friendship in Pilgrim Hall. Assisted listening devices are available for services held in our sanctuary.

**Childcare and Church School** Nursery care is available for children newborn to 4 years of age with screened and consistent childcare workers. If you'd like to keep your infant or child with you in worship, you are welcome to do so. Please feel free to move about during the service as needed. Also, during the 10 a.m. service in our regular programming year, children and youth are invited to leave after our children's circle and attend their church school classes.

**Luncheon Group** These luncheon gatherings, hosted by Bob Livingston, meet monthly on the fourth Monday of each month (September through May). They are highly informal, with welcoming and wide-ranging conversations, with the hopeful result of the nourishment of both the mind and body. The luncheons are held at Knight's Restaurant on 2324 Dexter Avenue in Ann Arbor. Our next luncheon will be on January 22.

**Tuesday Night Series (TNS)** The TNS group will recess for the holidays until a new series begins on Tuesday, January 9. More details will be included in the January Courier. Please come and join us then if you can!

**Text Breakfast** We gather with Bob Livingston every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Classic Cup Café (4389 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor) for lively discussion based on the upcoming Sunday's scriptural text. Our next breakfast is scheduled for January 3, 2018.

**Mind & Spirit Book Group** The Mind and Spirit Book Group is a community of women of all ages. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. Please contact Janet Chen at [a2janetchen@gmail.com](mailto:a2janetchen@gmail.com) for additional information.

**20/40** Our 20-, 30-, and 40- somethings meet on Wednesday evenings. Our next gathering will be announced in January.

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## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

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### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Douglas Chapel  
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
5:00 p.m. Wrapped In Love, All Church
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## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

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### CHRISTMAS EVE

- 9:00 a.m. Change of Pace with Special Music, Pilgrim Hall  
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
4-8 p.m. Live Nativity, William Street Grounds  
5:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary  
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion, Sanctuary

### 'Tis the Season!

The Christmas season is well underway, with holiday music filling the sanctuary and the Advent wreath on the altar, its four candles reminding us the joyous season is here. It's a time for giving.

There are countless ways church is an active, loving steward of the Ann Arbor community. This month, for example, the Mission and Outreach Committee organized an effort to make sure 120 children feel the joy of receiving a gift this season, and the FCC family so generously stepped in to help. Stewardship makes this possible.

The annual FCC Stewardship drive will kick off in May 2018. During this season of giving, we encourage everyone to reflect on the value of the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor and all the good it stands for. Your continued and generous support for the church makes so much possible -- your donations of time, talent and treasures help keep our beacon shining brightly.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for your continued, year-round support. Thank you for helping make FCC wonderful.

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## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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- Dec. 17 5:00 p.m. Wrapped In Love, All Church  
Dec. 18 1:00 p.m. Memorial Service  
6:15 p.m. Trustees Meeting  
Dec. 20 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast  
Dec. 23 1:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Speaking parts only)  
Dec. 24 9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Pilgrim Hall  
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
4-8 p.m. Live Nativity (FCC William St)  
5:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant  
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion, Sanctuary  
Dec. 25 Christmas Day-FCC Office Closed  
Dec. 29 FCC Office Closed  
Dec. 31 9:00 a.m. NO CHANGE OF PACE  
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion  
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

### TODAY IN CHURCH SCHOOL

Infants and preschoolers are invited downstairs to church school before the service.

Children (K-12) are invited to church school after children's circle.



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## STAFF

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Senior Minister	Robert K. Livingston (ext. 554)
Associate Minister	Darcy A. Crain (ext. 552)
Minister Emeritus	Terry N. Smith
Minister Emerita	Dorothy Lenz
Interim Director of C.E.	Rachel Dudley (ext. 553)
Director of Music	James C. Nissen (ext. 555)
Music Worship Leader	Terry Farmer (ext. 557)
Director of Music Emeritus	Willis Patterson
Organist	Timothy L. Huth
Organist Emerita	Marilyn Mason
Pianist	Rebecca Jones
Hand Chimes	Cindy Bylsma
Bookkeeper	Nancy Sauve (ext. 560)
Administrative Assistant	Renee Bovee (ext. 550)
Wedding Coordinator	Betty Jahnke
Custodian	Steffen Gelletly
Sound/AV Techs	Russ Wilcox-Cline, Brandon Bovee, Greg Eggleston



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