

Benediction

Pastor: Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

***The Peace of Christ**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Sending**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***Postlude: Rachel Poches**



Deeply Rooted ~ Future Focused

Pastor Luke Schmalz 920-428-0030
Office Hours - Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Please call the church office to meet with the Pastor
Keyboard/Organist Rachel Poches, David VandenBelt, Lorene Witte
Secretary Lorene Witte 924-4710
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Church: 231-924-4710 714 Hillcrest Drive - Fremont Mi 49412
Offering plates are located in the narthex.

The First Congregational Church
Your Independent Worship Center



December 8, 2024

The Order of Worship
**please stand, if you are able*

Prelude: Rachel Poches

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship (Luke 1:68-75)

Pastor: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

All: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

Pastor: that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

All: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

Pastor: that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

All: Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn - “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”- Blue Hymnal #245**
vs 1 & 4

Prayer of Confession

All: Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed. You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark! You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all! Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ’s way of hope and peace.

All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

***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 & Lighting of the Advent Candle - Carrie DeMull

JeLy Bell! All kids are invited to go to the JeLy Room for JeLY Church!

(JeLy ~ Jesus Loves You)

Scripture:

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Luke 3:1-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: “Zechariah’s Song”

***The Apostles’ Creed** (words projected)

Special Music - “The First Noel” - Stacey Church, Martha Kallenbach, Jack Brooks

Moments of Praise & Prayer Requests

Prayers of the Congregation

The Lord’s Prayer (words projected)

***Doxology (As the offering is brought forward)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**

Special Music - “What Child is This?” - Stacey Church, Martha Kallenbach, Jack Brooks

***Closing Hymn - “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” - Blue Hymnal #244**

Altar Rep: Jim Rynberg

Greeting us today: Dean & Jean Morehouse

Next Sunday: Kelly Parks

Song Leader: Pat Krehn

Tech Booth - Thank you volunteers! Garrett, Robin, Lou, Kendra

Happy Birthday to ~

Happy Anniversary to ~

Prayer Requests ~

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, December 8 - *Second Sunday of Advent*

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 9

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered

6:30 p.m. Tech Board - Library

Tuesday, December 10 - *Church Office Closed*

Wednesday, December 11

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered

10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship Board Meeting - Library

12:00 noon Men's Fellowship Luncheon - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 12 - *Church Office Closed*

No Crafters

Friday, December 13

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Library

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered

Saturday, December 14

Sunday, December 15 - *Third Sunday of Advent*

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

Christmas Craft Sale

Shop after worship today

25% off

(excluding the RADA cutlery)

Our Church News

Welcome to worship! We are grateful for your presence - whether you are a visitor or a member. Friends and guests, welcome to worship in the name of Jesus, who is both Savior and Friend and who welcomes all. Welcome to worship as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah.

Advent Invite cards are located on the table in the narthex. It's not too late to invite.

Thank you Stacey Church, Martha Kallenbach and Jack Brooks for sharing your gift of music with us this morning.

Men's Fellowship Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Dec 11 at noon.

The Walk Up Choir will sing next Sunday. The songs chosen are: "Low! How a Rose E'er Blooming" #255 and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #245

Community Closet is a Fremont charity helping the needy: We believe that God is able to provide everything that we need out of His love and abundance. There are no price tags in our store. Instead, we just ask that everyone gives as they are able.

Details: <https://www.communityclosetcharities.com>. At present, there is an urgent need for gently-used blankets and towels. Please bring your donations to Church on December 7 - January 6. Or if you prefer, your check to Community Closet Charities, and deposited in a specially-marked basket in the Narthex will be appreciated. Thank you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. For Charitable Giving, Jack

Looking Ahead - December Special Music/Service

Dec 15 - Jean Howarth & Walk Up Choir

Dec 22 - Drama - Mat Emerick & Friends

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m. Choir with solo by Pat Krehn, Stacey Church & Rachel Poches (cello & piano)

Dec 39 - Stacey, Martha, Jack