

First Presbyterian Church

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Celebrating our history, we look toward our future.

A large graphic with the word "Advent" in a large, elegant, dark red cursive font. Below it, the phrase "A Season of Hope & Expectation" is written in a smaller, dark red serif font. The entire graphic is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

The Order of Worship
First Sunday of Advent / Expectation
December 3, 2017

WELCOME. *We are delighted to have you with us this morning!
Following worship, please join us for fellowship and refreshments.*

Large Print Hymnals and Children's Activity Bags
are available from the Usher.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Lighting the Advent Candle** The Candle of Expectation

One: God inspired the prophets of old that they should foretell of the great promise of a Messiah.

Many generations of people lived in expectation, hoping that this promise would be fulfilled in their day.

We also live in a day of anticipation, knowing that Christ will return to us, perhaps in our lifetime.

All: “I wait for God with longing; I put my hope in God’s Word. My soul waits for God more eagerly than watchers for the morning.” (*Psalm 130:5-6*)

One: Today, as we begin the season of Advent, we light the Candle of Expectation. May it serve to remind us of God’s great promise to humankind, and that God always keeps promises. Let us pray:

All: Holy God, may we have a new appreciation of your promises to us and your fulfillment of them. During this holy season, help us to prepare our lives for God’s advent within us and in our world. We pray in the name of the One whose advent we expect. Amen.

***Hymn #83** “*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*”

***Prayer of Confession:**

One: Prepare the way of the Lord! In the sure and certain hope of God’s coming advent, let us prepare our hearts and

minds to be ready for his coming. Let us make our confession to God...

**All: Merciful God, always with us, always coming to us;
we confess we do not know how to prepare for your
advent among us.**

We have forgotten how to hope in miracles.

We have ignored the promise of your kingdom.

We get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,

the intelligent courage of the Magi,

and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph.

Let us journey with all of them to Bethlehem

and find the Good News of a child born for us.

Make us ready in our hearts for his coming.

One: Our prayers continue in silence....

Amen.

***The Assurance of Pardon**

One: "Comfort, comfort my people," says your God.

Your sins are pardoned. The penalty has been paid.

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

One: The Good News of this Advent season

is the forgiveness of sins and the birth of new life.

In Jesus Christ, by grace through faith, we are forgiven.

**All: Therefore, let us commit our lives
to Christ's way of hope and peace.**

*Celebration of Our Pardon

Hymn #99 “*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*” verses 1 and 2
(*Song of Mary – The Magnificat*)

*My soul gives glory to my God,
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.*

*My God has done great things for me:
Yes, holy is God’s Name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.*

*The Peace

One: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ,

All: Let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the signs of peace with one another.

*You are invited to greet those around you
with words and signs of God’s reconciling peace.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Hope of Incarnation”

***Hymn #105** *“People Look East”* (verses 1-4)

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper **The Invitation**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is indeed right....

(the prayer continues...)

The Lord’s Prayer (Ecumenical)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward to receive the elements. If you are unable to move forward the servers will come to you in your pew.

Prayer Following the Meal

**Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past,
you direct our journey into the future.**

**We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ,
and we eagerly await his coming again in this Advent
season.**

**Then we will feast at his royal banquet and sing his praises
with all the choirs of heaven.**

**By your Spirit, fill us with gratitude overflowing
that we may share life and love in praise to you.**

We pray in the gracious name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

***Offertory Response**

Hymn #99 “*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*” verse 4 and 5
(Song of Mary – The Magnificat)

*Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
The rich seem suddenly poor.*

*Praise God, whose loving covenant
Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.*

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn #106 “*Prepare the Way, O Zion*”**

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response**

Hymn #109 “*Blest Be the God of Israel*” (The Song of Zechariah)

*Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;
Who visits and redeems us, Who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise, And bring the people peace.*

Postlude

Prayer Requests/Prayer Chain: Prayer requests can be written on the blue cards found on the table at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Pass the card to the pastor during the Passing of the Peace.

This service is broadcast each Sunday on station KDWA 1460 AM/97.7 FM, and is lived streamed on www.kdwa.com.