

First Presbyterian Church

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Celebrating our history, we look toward our future.



Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

The Order of Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent / Proclamation
December 24, 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

*Call to Worship

The Candle of Revelation

One: The revelation of God's love for humankind is seen through the gift of his Son on that first Christmas. We have learned what God is like through the life and teachings of Jesus, and we have discovered the true meaning of love through his death on our behalf.

All: "A young woman will conceive and bear a child, and the child shall be called Emmanuel, 'God with us'." (Matthew 1:23)

One: Today, we relight the Candle of Expectation, reminding us of God's promise that he would send a Savior to his people.

We relight the Candle of Preparation, remembering that John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.

We relight the Candle of Proclamation, reminding us of the joy in our hearts with the news of his advent.

Now, we light the Candle of Revelation, and our lives are filled with the greatness of God's love revealed through the coming of the Christ Child. Let us pray:

All: God, we thank you for the manner in which you revealed yourself to us through Jesus.

We give you thanks and praise for your love for us.

Guide us through these final days of Advent, that the revelation of your love

may be seen in us by others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #87** *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”*

***Prayer for the Day**

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, O Promised One,
we come to this time of Advent awaiting your presence.
Give us the wisdom to see meaning in these busy days.
Give us the courage to wait in times of pain and trouble.
Give us the compassion to wait for one another.
Give us the faith to wait for the Messiah
when we are threatened by the Herods of this world.
Give us the hope to wait for the Savior
even when we cannot hear the angels singing.
Give us the love that does not wait
when it meets Christ in our neighbor. Amen.

***Hymn #143** *“Angels From the Realms of Glory”*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20
One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

Advent Reading *“She gave birth to her first-born son”*
A Child is Born: Meditations for Advent and Christmas
J. Barrie Shepherd

***Hymn #140** *“Once in Royal David’s City”*

Christmas Facts and Fun

Rev. Dr. Steve Robertson

***Hymn #121** *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 60:1-10

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Advent Reading *“They shall bring gold and frankincense”*

A Child is Born: Meditations for Advent and Christmas

J. Barrie Shepherd

Affirmation of Faith

- A Christmas Creed

**I believe in the spirit of Christmas,
for it is the spirit of our lord Jesus Christ,
whose birth it celebrates.**

**I believe in the lights of Christmas,
for they remind me of him who is the light of the world.**

**I believe in the greenery of Christmas,
for it symbolizes the eternal life of those in Christ.**

**I believe in giving gifts at Christmas,
for it is in keeping with the greatest gift
the world has ever known.**

**I believe in being childlike at Christmas,
for Jesus said we must become as children
to enter the kingdom of heaven;**

**And I believe in the angels' song about peace on earth
among persons of good will, for when my will is good,
as it is at Christmas, I feel a peace and joy in my heart
that is unlike anything else in all the world.**

It has to be the peace and joy of God. Amen.

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

***Offertory Response**

Hymn #141 “*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*” verse 1

*On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o,
id-e-o, gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

***Offertory Prayer**

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (Traditional)

**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.**

***Hymn #113** “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

***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.

Poinsettia Memorials & Honorees

Judy Becker In memory of John Becker,
Kenneth and Myrtle Fuhr

Dennis & Margaret Brown
In memory of Loved Ones

Marcia Caneff In memory of
her parents, Tom and Margaret Caneff
and sister, Cynthia

Mary Crawmer In honor of her sister and brother
and in memory of her Parents

Pat Dymacek In honor of her family

Carlotta Mullins In memory of Preece & Mullins Families

Marcia & Lee Rash
In memory of Marilyn Thompson Hoerl

Grant & Becky Tiefenbruck
In memory of our parents
and in honor of our children and grandchildren

Berniece Wittkopf
In honor of our Church Musicians