

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
COMMUNION

P.1

Please stand at items marked \* if you are able.  
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison  
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection  
Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Pianist: Micah Pawluk Music Director: Kendall House

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Prelude**

\* **Entry of the Bible**

**Introit**

**Lighting the Candle of Hope:** (see insert)

\* **Hymn:** "People in darkness"

**#124**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Almighty God, You made the heavens and the earth. You created light and darkness, day and night. In Jesus Christ, you brought hope into a world that was fearful and despairing. We wait for the re-creation of the whole earth. We wait for new life and we wait with deep hope. We confess that waiting is difficult. We want to be comfortable. We close our eyes to the suffering of others, and we ignore the pain in our own hearts. Forgive us for closing our eyes to that which we do not want to see. Forgive us for seeking our own comfort at the cost of others. Give us eyes that can perceive the great need within our community. Give us eyes to see the deep need of our own souls, so that we may turn to you again and again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Choir Anthem**

\* **Children's Hymn:** "Hope is a star"

**#119**

**\*Sing last verse after Children's Time\***

**Children's Time**

"Be Still and Know that I am God" (Ps. 46: 10)  
**Please take the time before the service as an opportunity to quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship.**

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**Upcoming Events at First**

Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	More than Mission	12:00 pm
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Café	1:30-3:30pm
	Board of Managers & Session Meeting	6:30 pm
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study	10:00 am
	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Crafts & Conversation	1:00 pm
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt	7:00 pm
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Worship	11:00 am
	Christmas Dinner	



**Once again,** I am asking you to consider submitting your church offering through PAR. A monthly withdrawal is made from your bank account on the 20th of each month. There are several reasons why this method is preferred by those who do use it. But two of the most important are that it is helpful for budgeting purposes and it provides the church with a dependable flow of contributions. To register, or if you have questions, please call me. Sandra Allan 577-9372 Thanks

**Christmas Congregational Dinner** – Sunday December 10, 2017 – 12 Noon – Church Hall  
Those with last names beginning with A to M bring a salad, those with last names beginning with N to Z bring a dessert  
Board of Managers will supply turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, buns, beverages  
Please indicate your attendance and # attending on sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

**Update on our Financial Position**

as of Oct 31/17

Total Revenue for Operating to Date: \$83,834  
Total Operating Expenditure to Date: \$92,574  
OPERATING DEFICIT: \$1,260

**Thank you, this week, to: Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>****Greeters:** Betty Irwin and Betty Irving**Lay Reader:****Fellowship Time:** Joyce Nystrom & Janet Taylor**Elevator Operator:** Doug Brown**Offering Counting:** Alice & Laird Morrison & Linda Rydholm**Offering Collection:** Leila Pettigrew & Betty Ann Burn**Next week's volunteers: Dec 10<sup>th</sup>****Greeters:** Betty Irwin and Betty Irving**Lay Reader:** Evelyn Konrad**Fellowship Time:** Christmas Dinner**Elevator Operator:** Richard Noy**Offering Counting:** Doug & Joleen Brown & Deborah Broll**Offering Collection:** Leila Pettigrew & Betty Ann Burn

**SHARE THE WARMTH!** Will you be quite warm and comfortable this winter? Probably. But remember that there are many who are not. The Crafts and Conversation group would like to ask you to help them provide warm clothing for those in need. Anything warm, including socks and underwear. A box will be in the narthex until DEC. 17 for your contributions. Thank you!

**Can You Help?**

The Worship Committee is looking for individuals/couples/families who would be willing to collect the offering on Sunday mornings. If you feel this is something you would be interested in doing, please contact Carol Wehrstedt after today's service or by phoning 939-1020. You could sign up for one Sunday, two in a row or even a month at a time. We are presently looking to fill the schedule starting in January. Thank you for considering this worship experience.

More Than Mission raised \$112 at their bake sale last week. Our goal is to raise \$500 for Lifewater Canada. Many thanks to everyone who supports us in reaching our goal.

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD****Hymn of Preparation:**

#121 v.2

"God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan: he will come as a man, born himself of woman, God divinely human. Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs, sing, sing, sing! When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?"

**Bible Readings:**

Luke 5:1-11

P. 62 NT

Psalm 34:15-22

P.508 OT

Matthew 27:39-46

P. 33 NT

**Gloria Patri:**

#594

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.

**Sermon: "Next Door Saviour: Part 1"****WE RESPOND TO GOD****Tithes and Offerings****\* Offertory Response:**

#145 v.4

"What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what can I give him--give him my heart."

**Prayer of Dedication:**

God of Hope, during this season of waiting and anticipation, we are reminded to prepare for the coming of your Son. Jesus' love often comes into our lives in quiet, unexpected ways. Today, we generously respond to this compassion and commit ourselves to living in a manner worthy of your love. In anticipation of the coming of Jesus, the Saviour, we pray. Amen.

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION****Invitation****\* Hymn:** "Let us talents and tongues employ"

#563

**Affirmation of Faith:**

Jesus is Lord! The Word of God is made real and human in our midst. All things are possible with God. Our thanks and praise rise into the heavens. Even in the midst of this world's darkness, we believe that God's love will never be defeated, and that peace will come and be found among us. We believe that God has entered human life. Our journeying is forever accompanied by Jesus, who is the light of the world and is understood in kindness. This we believe and from this we live.

Remembering the Meal with Jesus

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you.

**And the Lord be with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks!

**We give our thanks and praise to the Lord God!**

Holy One, Holy Three—Spirit, Son, and Father, you unfolded time and space and created us to love and be loved, to live on this earth, and tend to it for your glory. With grateful hearts,

**We offer our praise and thanks.**

Holy One, Holy Three—Author, Word, and Breath, you chose your covenant people and you revealed yourself as holy, incomparable, and elusive—as liberator, judge, and compassionate forgiving love. With grateful hearts,

**We offer our praise and thanks.**

Grace-full God, whose saving power enlarges us and our capacity for love, setting us free to live in your wonder, hear us as we join our voices with angels and archangels, the saints around your throne, and all creation to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy One, Holy Three—Lover, Beloved, and Energy of Love, you became human in Jesus, whose love goes beyond our limits, reaching out to good and bad alike and calling us to practice peace, mercy, and kindness, to forgive as we have been forgiven; and to love even our enemies. With grateful hearts,

**We offer our praise and thanks.**

Holy One, Holy Three—Giver, Given, and Gifting, as we share this bread and cup, we remember how Jesus died for us, bore our sins in his body on the tree, defeated the powers of this age, and lives among us here and now, breaking our dividing walls and giving us good news. With grateful hearts,

**We offer our praise and thanks.**

Holy Spirit, power and presence of Holy Three, Holy One, make this bread and cup our communion with the body and blood of Christ. With grateful hearts,

**We offer our praise and thanks.**

**Sharing the Meal****Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts...debtors)****WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

\* **Hymn:** "Come, know my joy, the Maker says" **#788**

**Blessing**

**Response:** **#168 v.5**

**"Sacred infant, all divine, of God's tender love the sign, for you came from highest bliss, down to such a world as this!  
Hail, O ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Postlude**

**(Please maintain a reverent silence and stillness during the postlude, which is our organist's gift both to you and to God. If you must leave before the postlude concludes, please do so as quietly as possible.)**