

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Christmas Eve 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Please stand at items marked \* if you are able.

Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison

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 Love** (see insert)

**Hymn** "Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel" **#122**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit: you are powerful, you are holy, and you are loving. Beside you there is no greater in heaven or earth. You come among us not as a warrior, or a rigid ruler, but as a child—new life born among us and for us. God of grace, you came to be with us. And yet, we confess, we often stray from you and your ways. You came so that we might have life, and have it abundantly, but we confess that too often we are in love with ways of living that are deadly or destructive. You came to reconcile all people, but we confess that we have nurtured division within us and among us. Forgive who we have been, renew who we are, and direct who we should be. In the name of Jesus the Christ child, we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Choir Anthem**

**\*Children's Hymn** "Go, tell it on the mountain" **#133**

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

**Children's Time**

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn of Preparation:** **#119 v.4**

**"Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart. When God is a child, there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid."**

"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.

**Bible Readings:**

**John 1:29-34**

**pg.92 NT**

**Psalms 136:1-2 ; 23-26**

**pg.576 OT**

**Philippians 2:1-11**

**pg.197 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 4"**

**Hymn:** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" **#115**

## **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 I can I give him--give him my heart."**

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

**Dear Father, we admit that Advent can be a challenging time. We are not accustomed to waiting. We live in a world of instant gratification. Yet, you call us to wait, to anticipate, and to prepare for the birth of your son. Provide us with a sense of calm. May the rhythm of worship and this offering moment calm us, so that we are prepared to receive anew the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts...debtors)**

## **WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

**\*Hymn:** "Twas in the moon of wintertime" **#144**

**Blessing** **#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.)**