

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Fourth Sunday in 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

Organist: Carol Wehrstedt Music Director: Kendall House

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

\*Entry of the Bible

Introit

Lighting the Candle of Love (see insert)

\*Hymn: "My soul gives glory to my God" #123

Opening Prayer:

O God our saviour, our spirits rejoice in you. You have done great things. You have scattered the proud. You have lifted up the lowly. You have filled the hungry with good things. You offer us gifts that are far greater than we deserve or can imagine. In you we receive love, freedom and forgiveness, yet we turn away. We become so absorbed with ourselves and those closest to us that we neglect to show your love in the world. We get so caught up in the lies of our culture that we fail to accept the freedom you give us. We become so focused on our need to be right, that we miss opportunities offer your forgiveness. Pardon us for the ways we have fallen short and renew in us a spirit of new life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Choir Anthem

## WE CELEBRATE GOD'S CHILDREN

\*Praise Song: "Jesus, our brother, kind and good" #150

Exploring God Together

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation: #119 v.4

"Love is a flame that burns in our hearts, 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:

Luke 1:39-55

pg. 57 NT

Psalms 80:1-7

pg. 540-541 OT

Hebrews 10:5-10

pg. 224 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: "With Loving Hearts"

\*Hymn: "I wonder as I wander"

#142

## WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

\* Offertory Response:

#141 v.2

"Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this. He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this."

\*Prayer of Dedication:

God of Glory, we eagerly anticipate the joy-filled celebration of Jesus' birthday party. We recall now in the quiet recesses of our minds the thrills of receiving your message of salvation. As we open ourselves again to this holy wonder, accept these generous gifts. May the ministries that these gifts support invite others to receive the saving message of the Christ Child. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

#535

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*Hymn: "Hark the glad sound" #118

Blessing

#168 v.1

"See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below; see, the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, O ever bless-ed 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.)