

## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

### *The Lord's Prayer*

*(from The Book of Praise, # 535)*

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

Cover Drawing by Colin Rackham



## *Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

**Minister:** Rev. Susan Mattinson

**Music Director:** Carol Wehrstedt

**Pianist/Organist:** Carol Wehrstedt

**Church Secretary:** Gina LaManna

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## **WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Lighting the Candle of Joy (see insert)**

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

**\*Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, Compassionate Son, Healing Spirit: You approach us with such kindness and tenderness. You look kindly on us, no matter what our state or condition, your care for this world is greater than we could ever ask or imagine. You bring order from chaos. You turn weeping into laughter. You turn sorrow into joy, and death into new life. You redeem all that appears lost, making all things new. And so, we come to you in joy, resting from our work and responsibilities, trusting you to bring peace amid our anxiety and hope into these uncertain times. Receive our worship this day as we anticipate the difference your gifts will make to us through Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

**Generous and gracious God, we confess the smallness of our love and the narrowness of our concern. These days we easily become preoccupied with statistics and case numbers. Opportunities to say thanks, to offer encouragement, to remember each other in friendship slip by. Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us lash out. Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season. Turn our hearts back to you and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ. For we pray in His name. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**Special Music: "Mary Did You Know" Carol Wehrstedt**

Please stand at items marked \* if you are able.  
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in unison.

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

**Bible Readings:**

**Ecclesiastes 2:18-26 - pg.615 OT**

**Psalms 30 - pg. 505 OT**

**John 15:1-11 - pg.109 NT**

**1 Peter 1:3-9 - pg.232 NT**

**Sermon: "Glorious Joy"**

**Instrumental Hymn: "People in darkness" #124**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**\* Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of justice and joy, our scripture readings remind us to rejoice in you. We bring our gifts to you in gratitude for your unfailing goodness to us. Bless these gifts and use them to create justice and bring joy into the world in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (see the back of bulletin)**

## **WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

**Blessing**

**Music Postlude:**

**(Please maintain a reverent silence and stillness during Postlude)**