

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

### *Fourth 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 Love (see insert)**

**Instrumental Hymn: "Long ago, prophets knew" #121**

**\*Opening Prayer:**

God of majesty and mercy, Creator, Christ and Spirit: you are powerful, you are holy, and you are loving. You come among us not as a warrior or tyrant, but as a child. New life born among us and for us. And so we come to worship you this day, trusting your wisdom with Joseph, pondering your mystery with Mary. We offer you our love for all that you have been, all that you are, and all that you will be, one God. Holy and loving, now and forever.

**God of mystery and mercy, you came to be with us and offer us new life in Christ, and yet we often stray from your side. You came to offer us love, but we confess that we can be stubborn and selfish in the ways we live. You came to reconcile all people, but we confess that we often resist repairing relationships and so remain divided. Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be. Through Jesus Christ who reaches out to us from the manger and the cross. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**Special Music:**

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:**

**2 Samuel 7:1–11,16 pg.281 OT**

**Psalms 100 pg.552 OT**

**Luke 1:26–38 pg.56-57 NT**

**John 2:13-22 pg.93 NT**

**Sermon: "A House for God"**

**Instrumental Hymn: "The First Nowell" #136**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**\* Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of hope and peace, joy and love: we are so grateful for these Advent gifts, which bring comfort and courage even in the most challenging times. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and loyalty. Bless them with your grace, so that they will bring love to those who need it so much this year. Bless our lives, too, so that we shine with your love, blessing others in the name of Jesus, our Saviour and friend. 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)**