

The Order for Worship and Celebration

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Preparing for God's Word

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC:

"What Child Is This?", Traditional English Melody, arr. Brent Olstad
Melanie Lorenz, Stephanie Thimmesch- flutes; Taemin Han, piano

"The Coventry Carol", Traditional English Carol, arr. Brad Nix
Suzanne Bullard, cello; Taemin Han, piano

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" by Johann Pachelbel
Miah Han, organ

WELCOME

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT FOR MISSION Christmas Joy Offering

Stacy Robinson

Gathering Around God's Word

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

David Kabel

Leader: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

People: *We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.*

Leader: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

People: *Comfort, comfort O my people says our God of love.*

Leader: This day God is present with us; we feel it.

People: *Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy!*

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Congregation, organ and Celebration Ringers

#119, Hymnal

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – The Candle of Joy

Family Sharing: Don and Jan Schwab, JoEllen, Tony and Zachary Pruis

Congregational Prayer: *Emmanuel, lead us from sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy over your salvation and abundant life. Amen.*

Song of Response: *"The Candle of Joy"*

[LYONS 10.10.11.11 (O Worship the King, All Glorious Above)]

*The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Awesome God, we have blamed you for hiding from us, rather than admitting that we have failed to see you in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day. You call us home to live with you but we are too busy right now to listen. Your abundance has made us proud more than thankful. Yet you continue to cry out to us, Comforter of the lost, speaking to us of your love. Give us ears to listen, hearts that are changed, and faith to respond. Amen.
(silent confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (Responsive)

Leader: Forgiveness is our gift for every moment, not just one day.

People: *Therefore, we can live in peace as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who is your Messenger of mercy.*

*RESPONSE

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (chorus)
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

#113, Hymnal

PASSING THE PEACE (Please greet those around you.)

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

"Sing We Now of Jesus" French Carol
Children's Choir with Sanctuary Choir

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"Where Is the New Born King?" Andreas Hammerschmidt
Sanctuary Choir; 2 flutes, cello, organ

ANTHEM

"Christ the Apple Tree" Standford Scriven
Sanctuary Choir

Hearing God's Word

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

HOMILY

Notoriously Unpredictable

Rev. Amy Wiles

*HYMN OF REFLECTION

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" (verses 1-3)

#104, Hymnal

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Join Pastor Amy at Panera Bread in Waterloo **each Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m.** for Bible study and conversation. The group discusses the text for the upcoming Sunday worship service. Come for some coffee and conversation. **This group will not meet December 22 or December 29.**

CHRISTMAS DINNER THANK YOU: We want to thank all who helped plan, prepare, serve and cleanup for last Sunday’s Christmas Dinner. We couldn’t have done it without you. It takes a small army to pull off the annual Christmas Dinner, and you all stepped up and made it all possible. Thanks, Lynda Cose and Mary Mumm.

HYMNAL ANGELS: If you ordered a “hymnal angel” at the Christmas Dinner last Sunday, you may pick it up during coffee hour this Sunday. We are unable to take any further orders at this time. The Celebration Ringers would like to thank everyone who made this fundraiser such a success.

SERVICE OF SOLACE: The Advent Season is always a joyful time and a chance to celebrate. However, this is not always a happy time for some people. It can be a difficult time. People who are mourning a loss—whether it be a loss of a family member, a job, or some other sadness—can feel their grief intensify during Advent. On **Sunday afternoon, December 20**, we will hold a Service of Solace at **2:00 p.m. in the Chapel**. This will be a simple prayer service with music, scripture, and reflection for those who are grieving. A reception will follow.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND NAPKINS: The Presbyterian Women have Christmas Cards (\$5 per box) and Christmas napkins (\$3.50 per pkg.) for sale. Please check out the table in the Church Office if you’re interested. You may pay in the Church Office or see Mary K. Williams.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: The annual Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service will begin at **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24**. Pre-service music will begin at 5:45 p.m.

THANK YOU TO OUR GUEST MUSICIANS: Our guest musicians are Susan Bullard, Melanie Lorenz, Stephanie Thimmesch and Miah Han. Please thank them for sharing their musical talents with us during this morning’s service.

Community Ministries

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: Today is the deadline to bring your gifts for the Adopt-a-Family Tree. Please see Dan Klann if you have questions.

MITTEN TREE: The annual Mitten Tree is up in Calvin Hall to receive your blossoms of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. We will deliver all donations to our Partner-in-Ed, Irving School, later in December.

HY-VEE RECEPITS: Please remember to bring your Hy-Vee receipts and put them in the box on the counter in the Church Office. **We can only accept receipts dated from June 2015 forward, no other receipts are honored.**

SOUP BAGS: Providing a bag of soup and crackers has become an additional ministry when we serve our free Community Breakfast on the third Sunday of each month. Your donations of soup, crackers, ramen noodles, etc. helps tremendously with this ministry.

DECEMBER COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: Please join us from 8:30-9:15 a.m. **next Sunday, December 20**, for the free community breakfast. Team #1 (Terry Sage) will host the event. If you would like to help set up, cook, serve, or clean up for this event, please contact Terry.

This Week at First Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: 3rd Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m.	Free Community Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
8:45 a.m.	Adult Forum	Calvin Hall
9:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Fellowship & Coffee Hour	Calvin Hall
11:15 a.m.	Children’s Sunday School	2 nd Floor
11:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School	Youth Room
11:15 a.m.	Koinonia	Parlor
11:15 a.m.	Personnel Ministry Team Meeting	Chapel
11:15 a.m.	Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team Meeting	Knox Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15:

8:30 a.m.	Foster Care Review Board	Calvin Hall
7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting	Calvin Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16:

10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Pastor’s Office
6:00 p.m.	Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

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11:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School	Youth Room
11:15 a.m.	Koinonia	Parlor
2:00 p.m.	Service of Solace	Chapel

Joys and Concerns for December 13, 2015

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Kathy Zenner, home; Gale Quirk, home; Mary Lou Junge, Western Home; Ed Halvorson, home;
Joann Lockard, home; George Day, home

Pray for Our Sister Churches:

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Washburn
Rev. Dr. Clemens Bartollas

Please pray for our partners in mission in the Presbytery of Boise (Idaho, Nevada, Oregon), the Presbytery of the Cascades (Oregon, Washington, California), the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon, the Presbytery of Kendall (Idaho), the Presbytery of Nevada (Nevada, California), and the Presbytery of the Redwoods (California).

First Presbyterian Church

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