

The Order for Worship and Celebration

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Preparing for God's Word

PRELUDE "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" English Carol, arr. John Klein
Celebration Ringers

WELCOME

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT FOR MISSION "Christmas Joy Offering" Craig Sage

Gathering Around God's Word

*CALL TO WORSHIP (includes quote by Wendell Berry) Jennifer Lightbody

Leader: "When despair for the world grows in me...

People: *I come into the peace of wild things*

Leader: who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.

People: *I come into the presence of still water."*

Leader: When everything feels hopeless, when we feel as dead as the dry bones in Ezekiel's valley,

People: *God calls us to breathe in the holy breath of peace.*

Leader: When we light the candle of Peace, we breathe in the One who restores us.

People: *Whatever we face in life, God's Spirit of peace will dwell within us.*

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

*HYMN OF PRAISE AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE Zachary Pruis
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #82, Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O Holy God, we prepare for the Prince of Peace but we do not feel peaceful. The busyness of the holiday season leaves us scattered and fatigued. The chaos of our world reveals our disunity and despair. We do not carve out time for you. We do not work to mend the brokenness of our world.

Put us back together, yet again, as individuals and a community. Breathe new life in us and make us whole. (silent confession) Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (Responsive)

Leader: God's grace comes to us in Jesus Christ, born anew in our hearts and lives. We are forgiven and offered new life.

People: *Thanks be to Emmanuel, God with us.*

RESPONSE "Angel We Have Heard on High" (refrain) #113, Hymnal
"Gloria in excelsis deo, Gloria in excelsis deo"

PASSING THE PEACE: (Please greet those around you.)

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

ANTHEM "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Darian Krimm
Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, Celebration Ringers

Hearing God's Word

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 37:1-10 (page 806, OT)

SERMON **Preparing for the Impossible** Rev. Amy Wiles

CANTATA "God Is Our Refuge" Johan Roman

Sanctuary Choir

Samantha Takes - soprano; Athena Whiteside - alto

Coren Hucke - tenor; Carols Woener - bass

Heather Peyton, David Thompson - oboe

Danielius Kaplunas, Esther Heise - violin; Jotham Polashek - viola

Sohyun Meacham - cello; Alex Pershounin - double bass

Miah Han, organ

Responding to God's Word

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Offertory "Gloria" from Tango Mass (see insert) Martin Palmeri

Sanctuary Choir; Athena Whiteside, solo; Miah Han, piano

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION #606, Hymnal

SERMON STORY AND TEXT: Next Sunday's sermon passage is Isaiah 55:1-13.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (See Insert)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please retain the bread so that we might partake of it together;
you may drink the juice as you receive it.*

PRAYER

Going Out to Live God's Word

*CLOSING HYMN

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

#106, Hymnal

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"From Heaven above to Earth"

Johann Pachelbel

Miah Han, organ

*"It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness." Prayer is one way for us
to light a candle in a hurting world. Four stations are set up in the sanctuary.
As you leave the Sanctuary this morning, you are invited to light a candle
for a person or situation that needs prayer.*

*Please stand if you are able

JOY! JOY! JOY! A warm welcome on this second Sunday of Advent. May the joy of Christ's coming lift the hearts of all of us as we worship God and share our love with one another. If you are interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church, please talk with Pastor Wiles or contact the Church Office.

HAVING A BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK: Dave Kabel, Pauline Barrett, and Wendell Wexter.

Congregational Ministries

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR: Take time this morning to say a fond farewell to Skip and Judy Mulock during the coffee hour in Calvin Hall. Skip and Judy are moving to South Dakota and today is their last Sunday with us.

PW FUNDRAISER: the Presbyterian Women will be offering Christmas cards, holiday napkins, Christmas artwork and holiday bows for sale during coffee hour on Sunday mornings.

YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY: On **Sunday, December 17**, the youth will meet at Cadillac Lanes from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** for a fun night of bowling and laughs. Bring a gift to share for a gift exchange. It doesn't need to be any more than \$5. Also, bring a toy or gift that we can donate to the Salvation Army for the Holiday Season. **Please have transportation to and from the bowling alley.**

YOUTH LOCK-IN: On **Friday, January 12, from 6:30 p.m. until Saturday, January 13, at 8:30 a.m.** Come and get locked in at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls for a night of pizza, games and pure fun! Friends are invited to join as well. All you need are some comfy clothes to run around in, sleeping bag and pillow, and maybe a snack to share. **Volunteers Needed:** Stephanie is looking for a couple of volunteers willing to spend the night with some awesome youth and have some fun! Please let Stephanie know if you are interested in helping out in any way.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Join us for an afternoon of caroling **TODAY from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** We will meet at the church and then carpool to different homes and places to sing a couple of carols to spread Christmas Joy!

SHARE YOUR INNER ARTIST THIS ADVENT: Last year, church members had the opportunity to color days of the Advent calendar that were displayed in our hallway. This year you have another chance to share your inner artist. **During Advent, a large banner of the nativity story will be displayed during coffee hour.** You are invited to help us color the banner. We hope to finish the banner by Christmas Eve when it will be displayed in our hallway. Don't be shy. Join us for this fun activity.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's easy to lose sight of why we celebrate. Take some time during Advent to study Scripture and grow in your relationship with Jesus. We offer Advent calendars where participants are encouraged to notice the world around them each day and celebrate Christ's presence among us. Second, "Jesus: God's Promise" is a new devotional guide based on the writings of Henri J.M. Nouwen. Scripture and

prayers are offered each day. **Advent devotionals and calendars are available in the Church Office.**

Worship and Music Ministries

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 17, we will hold a “Service of Solace” at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel.** This will be a simple prayer service with music, scripture, and reflection for those who are grieving. Deacons will be serving refreshments after the service.

PAUSE FOR PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL: Take time to pause during the rush of the Advent season for reflection and prayer. Come, reflect in the quiet. Visit the prayer stations. Leave your requests for prayers. Resources will be available for individual use. The Chapel is open before and after worship and during church office hours.

THANK YOU: Thank you to our many guest instrumentalists this morning and to Miah Han, organist.

LIVE NATIVITY AT FAITH TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH: Our church has received a special invitation to attend “Reason for the Season of Christmas” on **Saturday, December 23**, at Faith Temple Baptist Church, 325 E. Park Ave. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the show starts at 7:00 p.m. In addition to attending, our church members have been invited to participate if they wish. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Amy ASAP.

Mission and Outreach Ministries

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: Please return the wrapped gift with the tag attached to the Church Office no later than next Sunday, December 17. If you have questions regarding this project, call Jan Bellinger at 232-3080.

HAT AND SCARF TREE: The Hat and Scarf Tree is up in Calvin Hall to accept your blossoms of hats and scarves for our Partner-in-Education, Irving School. Since we often have an abundance of donated items, we expect to distribute some to organizations such as People’s Clinic, Salvation Army and Sunday Supper guests. We will be collecting through Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: The Christmas Eve offering this year will go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund for Disaster Relief-US Disasters & Emergencies. This is one of the ways in

which Presbyterians can act together to rebuild after the devastation caused this year by Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, and Irma and the wildfires in California.

Stewardship and Finance Ministries

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four major offerings promoted by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Through the Christmas Joy Offering we make and keep two promises: to church workers through assistance in their time of need and to racial ethnic education and leadership development. **This offering will be collected next Sunday, December 17.**

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Please stop by the table in the main hallway to pick up your 2018 offering envelopes **beginning Sunday, December 17.**

FINAL DEPOSIT FOR 2017: The final deposit of tithes, pledges, and elevator pledges for 2017 will be made on Wednesday, December 27.

This Week at First Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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
3:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling	Meet at Church
5:00 p.m.	Sunday Supper	Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11:

5:00 p.m.	Love, INC Board Meeting	Fellowship Hall
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12:

8:30 a.m.	Foster Care Review Board	Calvin Hall
10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Prlor
4:00 p.m.	Personnel Team	Parlor
5:15 p.m.	Stewardship and Finance Team	Church Office
6:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting	Calvin Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13:

8:30 a.m.	Morning Bible Study	Panera Bread, Waterloo
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6:00 p.m.	Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14:

9:30 a.m.	New Beginnings Book Group	Cabin Coffee, Waterloo
4:30 p.m.	Rooted - Children's Ministry	2nd Floor Classroom

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent

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
11:00 a.m.	Session Meeting	Parlor
5:00 p.m.	Youth Christmas Bowling	Cadillac Lanes, Waterloo
5:00 p.m.	Sunday Supper	Fellowship Hall

Joys and Concerns for December 10, 2017

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Dick Zenner, Allen Hospital; Darlys Varner, home; Karen Dew, home; Neva Kerr, home; Don Lowe, home; Sue Roberts, Martin Health Center; Kathy Zenner, Tripoli Nursing and Rehab; Rita Campbell, home; Barbara Benskin, home; Robert Junge, home; George Day, home; Russ TePaske, Western Home; Karen Hahn, Ravenwood; Barbara Cox, Eliz. Martin Center, Sally Fish, home

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SISTER CHURCHES:

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

First Presbyterian Church

505 Franklin Street, Waterloo, IA 50703

319-233-6145

www.1stpresby.org

Offertory - “Gloria” from Tango Mass

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will. We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You, we give You thanks for Your great glory.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis [coelestis], Deus Pater omnipotens.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God Almighty Father.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;

Lord Jesus Christ, Only-Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Who take away the sins of the world, hear our prayer. You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

For You alone are the Holy One, you alone the Lord, you alone the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People:

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord... With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

People:

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.