

# First Presbyterian Church

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*Celebrating our history, we look toward our future.*



**The Order of Worship**  
**Second Sunday of Advent / Preparation**  
**December 10, 2017**

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**WELCOME.** *We are delighted to have you with us this morning!  
Following worship, please join us for fellowship and refreshments.*

Large Print Hymnals and Children's Activity Bags  
are available from the Usher.

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

### The Candle of Preparation

One: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus  
to come into the world.

His call for repentance challenged listeners  
to consider their relationship with God.

They were to repent of their sins and then to discipline  
themselves so that they would be ready to receive him  
when he came.

**All: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God”  
(Isaiah 40:3)**

One: Today, we relight the Candle of Expectation  
reminding us of God’s great promise that he would send a  
Messiah to save his people.

Now we light the second candle, the Candle of Preparation.  
It reminds us that John the Baptist prepared the way for  
Jesus.

In that same spirit, we need to prepare ourselves for his  
coming again to us this year. Let us pray:

**All: Dear Lord, guide us in our preparation  
for the coming of the expected one.**

**We know that he comes to us  
out of the greatness of your love for us.**

**Help us make ready for his incarnation.**

**In his name we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verses 1, 6 & 7

### **\*Prayer of Confession:**

One: Prepare the way of the Lord! In the sure and certain hope of God's coming advent, let us prepare our hearts and minds to be ready for his coming. Let us make our confession to God...

**All: Lord, we have not kept watch for you.  
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.  
We have not waited to find your will for us.  
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.  
We have not acknowledged the love  
that has been shown to us.  
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.  
Help us to wait to know your will.  
Help us to look out for the needs of others.  
Help us to work and watch for your coming.**

One: Our prayers continue in silence.... Amen.

### **\*The Assurance of Pardon**

One: "Comfort, comfort my people," says your God.  
Your sins are pardoned. The penalty has been paid.

**All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us,  
setting us free to love and serve.**

One: The Good News of this Advent season  
is the forgiveness of sins and the birth of new life.  
In Jesus Christ, by grace through faith, we are forgiven.

**All: Therefore, let us commit our lives  
to Christ's way of hope and peace.**

### **\*Celebration of Our Pardon**

Hymn #119 "*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*" verse 1

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark, the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

**\*The Peace**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ,

**All: Let us forgive one another.**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share the signs of peace with one another.

*You are invited to greet those around you  
with words and signs of God's reconciling peace.*

**Anthem**      *“The First Noel”*

Arranged by Susan Berry and Janet Van Valey

The Bell Choir, Marcia Rash, Director

**The First Lesson**      Luke 1:26-33

*The birth of Jesus is foretold*

**Solo**      *“Mary, Did You Know?”*

Words and music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Bob Albright, vocals

**The Second Lesson** Luke 2:1-7

*The birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph*

**\*Hymn #115** “*Away in a Manger*”

**The Third Lesson** Luke 2:8-14

*The birth is announced by the angels to the shepherds*

**Anthem** “*Joy to the World*”

Arranged by Alan Lohr

The Bell Choir, Marcia Rash, Director

**The Forth Lesson** Luke 2:15-20

*The shepherds go to Bethlehem to see the child*

**\*Hymn #121** “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” verses 1 & 4

**\*Affirmation of Faith** -from Westminster Confession

**We believe that the Son of God,  
the second person of the Trinity,  
being truly and eternally God,  
of one substance and equal with the Father,  
did, when the fullness of time had come,  
take upon himself human nature,  
with all its essential properties and common frailties,  
yet without sin.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
in the womb of the virgin Mary, and of her substance.**

*(continued next page...)*

**In this way, two whole natures, the divine and the human, perfect and distinct, were inseparably joined together in one person without being changed, mixed, or confused. This person is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and humanity.**

**In him the Father was pleased to have all fullness dwell, so that he might be completely equipped to fulfill the office of a mediator and guarantor. Amen.**

## **Reception of Tithes & Offerings**

**Offertory**                    *“Christmas Meditation Medley”*

By Jason W. Krug

Based on Hymn Tunes *“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming”*  
and *“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”*

## **\*Offertory Response**

Hymn #119 *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”* verse 3

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

## **The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (Traditional)**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #113**      *“Angles We Have Heard on High”*

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Response**

Hymn #109 *“Blest Be the God of Israel”* (The Song of Zechariah)

*Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;  
Who visits and redeems us, Who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise, And bring the people peace.*

**Postlude**

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**Prayer Requests/Prayer Chain:** Prayer requests can be written on the blue cards found on the table at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Pass the card to the pastor during the Passing of the Peace.

This service is broadcast each Sunday on station KDWA 1460 AM/97.7 FM, and is lived streamed on [www.kdwa.com](http://www.kdwa.com).

## Poinsettia Memorials & Honorees

Judy Becker      In memory of John Becker,  
Kenneth and Myrtle Fuhr

Dennis & Margaret Brown  
In memory of Loved Ones

Marcia Caneff      In memory of  
her parents, Tom and Margaret Caneff  
and sister, Cynthia

Mary Crawmer      In honor of her sister and brother  
and in memory of her Parents

Pat Dymacek      In honor of her family

Carlotta Mullins      In memory of Preece & Mullins Families

Marcia & Lee Rash  
In memory of Marilyn Thompson Hoerl

Grant & Becky Tiefenbruck  
In memory of our parents  
and in honor of our children and grandchildren

Berniece Wittkopf  
In honor of our Church Musicians