

First Presbyterian Church

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Celebrating our history, we look toward our future.

The word "Advent" is written in a large, elegant, dark red cursive font. Below it, the subtitle "A Season of Hope & Expectation" is written in a smaller, dark red serif font. The entire graphic is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

The Order of Worship **Third Sunday of Advent / Proclamation** **December 17, 2017**

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

*Lighting the Advent Candle The Candle of Proclamation

One: The prophets not only proclaimed that God would send the Son into the world, but they also foretold the rejoicing that would accompany his coming. The hearts of women, men, and children were filled with joy and gladness as the realization of the promise drew near.

**All: “Rejoice, daughter of Zion! I am coming,
and I shall make my dwelling place among you”
says our God. (Zechariah 2:10)**

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

And as we relight the Candle of Preparation, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.

Now, as we light the Candle of Proclamation, our hearts are filled with joy as we proclaim that his advent will soon take place. Let us pray:

**All: O God, we rejoice in the advent of your Son.
We anxiously and joyfully await the day
when he will return.**

**May our lives be filled with joy as you guide us in
proclaiming his truth to those around us each day.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

*Hymn #360 *“Christ is Coming!”*

*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...

One: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

All: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

One: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

One: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

All: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

One: And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**All: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.
It's time that we prepare for your advent among us.
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time.**

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 #83 "*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*" verse 1

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

***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.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Are You Really Ready for Christmas?”

Rev. Dr. Steve Robertson

***Hymn #357** “*The Days Are Surely Coming*”

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Jesus Christ

and in the power of the Gospel, which began in Bethlehem.

**We believe in the one whose life changed the course of history,
for whom the kings of the earth had no power,
and who was not understood by the proud.**

We believe in the one who,

with love, changed the hearts of the proud and

**with his life showed that it is more important to serve
than to be served**

and that the greatest glory is giving your life for others.

We believe in peace and justice among all people and nations.

We believe in reconciliation, forgiveness,

and the transforming power of the gospel.

**We believe that Christmas is full of God’s strength and power,
and that this world can change if,**

with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger.

We believe that we must be the first ones to do so. Amen.

Reception of Tithes & Offerings and the Christmas Joy Offering

***Offertory Response**

*Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

***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 #100** *“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”*
(“Canticle of Turning”)

***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

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.

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