

December 18, 2016
First Presbyterian Church
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Glorify. Grow.

Mission Statement:

We, as the Church, are the Body of Christ equipped through prayer by the Holy Spirit to glorify God; through passionate worship, nurturing fellowship, sacrificial service, respectful evangelism, and active discipleship, we encourage and challenge all ages of our congregation and community to grow in relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ask an usher for a large print bulletin, Bible, or hearing enhancement device.

Prayer cards, visitor information cards, and offering envelopes can be found in the pews. Please place them in the offering plate.

Preaching: Rev. Rich McDermott

8:30 Lay Leader: Kathi Dailey

Advent Candles: Mike and Susie Floyd

11:00 Lay Leader: Bob Koch

Advent Candles: Lucia and Alan Bitnar

The Worship of God

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God by Sarah Rabb and family in memory of Dick Rabb, and by Jennifer and Kelly in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mary Ellen and J. Fred Miller.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

Jesus, the long expected Savior, was born to set us free. He releases us from our fears and sins and helps us find our rest in him. Jesus delivers us from the way of sin and death. Yet he remains the desire of people in every nation, and he will direct us into the ways of his kingdom. And so, with hopeful hearts, we call to him: Come now, long expected Jesus, come again to rule in our hearts.

Prelude (8:30) Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending Charles Callahan

(11:00) Come Thou Long Expected Jesus Mark Hayes
Donna Vickers, piano

Lighting the Advent Candles

§ Hymn 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

§ Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, and taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives.

Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

§ Hymn of Assurance 87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People GENEVAN 42

**Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace! So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.**

§ Passing the Peace Greet those around you with, **"The peace of Christ be with you."**

§ Hymn 347 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PICARDY

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-5 Old Testament page 640

Anthem (8:30) Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head arr. Richard D. Row
Sara Teal, soprano

(11:00) My Lord Has Come Will Todd

This anthem is given to the glory of God in honor of Marcia Rober
and her many years of service in children's music ministry.

*Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels:
No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.*

*Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.*

*His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.*

Children's Time (11:00)

Children age of 3 to fourth grade are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in room 218.

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7 New Testament page 58

The Sermon The Surprise of the Messiah Rev. McDermott

Responding

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offertory (8:30) We Three Kings arr. James Bastien
Ryan Farnell, piano

(11:00) Advent Carol arr. Hal H. Hopson
Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

§ The Doxology (Hymn 606) OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

§ Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sending

§ Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

§ Charge and Benediction

the congregation joins hands

§ Postlude

Il Est Né

Richard Hudson

