

Christmas Day – December 25, 2021

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14 – Lynn Mellentien

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Lighting of the Christ Candle – Deb Zorn, Jennifer Zander, Mary Robotka, Kris Bartelt

Today we light the four Advent candles and the Christ Candle We light the candle of Hope remembering the Hope of Christ's coming, the dream that Christ's gifts of healing are for all the world. **(Light a candle)**

We light the candle of Peace knowing that it is God's grace that will end all division and fighting on the earth. **(Light a second candle)**

We light the candle of Joy celebrating and remembering that the joy of the Lord is our strength and will be our source of courage in this world. **(Light a third candle if you are using a pink candle, please lit that one here*)**

We now light the candle of Love because it is out of love that God sent his Son into the world to save all of us. **(Light a fourth candle)**

(Light the Christ Candle)

"Good news of great joy," the angel said, "**for to you a savior is born.**"

"Peace on earth," the choir sang, "**for God reigns in the highest.**"

"Follow me," the star beckoned, "**For Hope was born in Bethlehem.**"

As we light the Christ candle,

we watch for the Christmas story around us.

Emmanuel has come and is coming.

Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.

Let Us Pray: Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Lantern from the Christ candle. Each Sunday the Lit Lantern is placed in our Worship space reminding us of God's Gift of Salvation through His son, born this day in Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas from the Staff of First Presbyterian Church

Music: "Away in a Manger" (violin and cello duet)

Jaeda and Leah R.

