

Prayers and Praises

Prayers for those who are missing loved ones, especially during this holiday season. Prayers for communities who were in the path of the storms in the Midwest and who have been affected by these destructive tornadoes. Please consider a donation to [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) if you are able. To support the Presbyterian Church USA response, gifts can be designated to DR000015 <http://bit.ly/DR000015>.

The Family of Barbara Shamrock - [Obituary](#)

Jessica Burmeister	Arnold Leestma
Betty Swenson	Ruth Smith
Joanne Marchionda	Lincoln Deanovich
Bonnie Hughes	Jesse Fisher
Ollive Block	Silas Willey
Wendy Wilcox	Jane Devine
Pam Coburn	Jerry and Mary Heider
Joyce Jones	Chastity Geisthardt Joan Steininger
Pat Dilling	
Gib Dilling	

Who We Are

Christians – Serving, Learning and Loving

At First Presbyterian Church, we're here to share the love of Jesus with everyone. Every person has a name, every name has a story and every story matters to Jesus. We're here to help you develop a deeper connection with God. We're here to help you take the next step in developing your faith.

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In-Person Bulletin for Worship

December 19, 2021

9:00 Service

Prelude #48 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
#37 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (W Żłobie Leży)
#56 "The First Noel" (The First Nowell) (verse 1 only)

Announcements

Dave Erickson

Lit candle is brought in reminding us of Christ in our Midst.

Lighting the Candle of Love

Braatz Family

Today we light the four Advent candles. 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)**

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, **to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.**

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, **to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.**

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, **to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.**

As we light our fourth Advent candle,

we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Love.

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.**

*Call to Worship

Dave Erickson

Keep watch! For the One who brings peace is coming.

We wait in anticipation for Christ.

We wait for God's revealing of joy. Remain alert!

Love is coming to dwell among us. Hope draws near.

***Opening Hymn: #53** “What Child is This” vs. 1 & 2 (Greensleeves)

***Prayer of Adoration**

Blessed is the Lord,
and blessed are God’s people
to whom God sends a savior, the messiah,
who is Christ the Lord.
Blessed is our God,
and blessed are God’s gifts,
that grace us with forgiveness
and every good gift.
Lord, you have come to dwell within us.
Build your temple within our hearts. **Amen.**

***Call to Confession**

In our waiting and preparation,
we come to rest, again, at the foot of the cross.
Even in this season of anticipation,
we see the fullness of God’s promised redemption
in the waters of baptism.
As those who are fully known and redeemed,
we confess our sin before God and one another.

***Prayer of Confession**

**O God, giver of all good gifts,
we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace.
Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life.
Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability.
Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control.
Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls.
Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands.
Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

Take a few moments for your own silent confession

***Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness**

Christ’s coming is certain. God’s promise is true.
Trust in the transformational power of God’s forgiveness and
receive the gift of God’s love.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***Glory to God Hymnal #576** “Gloria, Gloria”

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

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Scripture Readings: **Micah 5:2–5a**
 Luke 14:15-22
 Colossians 1:15-20

Message: “Christmas Card from God”
Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Paul Zoschke

Hymn #40 “Joy to the World” (vs 1 & 2)

The Offering

Offering

*Offertory #53 “What Child is This” (v3)

*Prayer of Dedication / Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

Because you Gave “St. Katharine Drexel Homeless Shelter”

Bob Hartzheim

***Sending Hymn #29** “Go, Tell it on the Mountain” (chorus, v3, chorus)

***Benediction**

***Postlude** “Go Tell It”

arranged by Aaron David Miller