



First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls



Our Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls is: God's timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

December 27, 2020 ~ 10:15 am ~ Rev. Scott Prouty

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude: Karen Speros

Ringling of the Church Bell

Call to Worship

Let us worship God in thanksgiving for his wonderful gift. When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Prayer of Invocation

We praise You, God our Father, with thanksgiving for the gift of new life in birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who came to live our common life for our sakes. We praise You, God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, born of Mary, for the wholeness of Your life as a member of a family, and servant of the whole human family. We praise You, God the Holy Spirit, for through Your work Mary had a Holy Child, and You rested upon Him as He did good works and brought the good news. We worship and adore You one God, three persons in community, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the foundation of family and community life. Amen.

Hymn #115

"Away in the Manger"

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We confess that we have sinned against You as we have sinned against those whom You have given us to live with in community. We have failed to reflect in our lives the mutual respect, admiration and love of one another that is revealed in Your own nature of persons in community. Have mercy and forgive us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Time for Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Your sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response Hymn #581 "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Share the Peace of Christ with One Another

(Comment below to share the Peace of Christ.)

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law, ⁵ so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God's children. ⁶ Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father. ⁷ You are no longer slaves. You are God's children, and you will be given what he has promised.

Hymn #119 **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: *Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-40

²² The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the Law of Moses says a mother is supposed to do after her baby is born.^[a] They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord, ²³ just as the Law of the Lord says, "Each first-born^[b] baby boy belongs to the Lord." ²⁴ The Law of the Lord also says that parents have to offer a sacrifice, giving at least a pair of doves or two young pigeons. So that is what Mary and Joseph did.

²⁵ At this time a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. Simeon was a good man. He loved God and was waiting for God to save the people of Israel. God's Spirit came to him ²⁶ and told him that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord. ²⁷ When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to do what the Law of Moses says should be done for a new baby, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. ²⁸ Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God, ²⁹ "Lord, I am your servant, and now I can die in peace, because you have kept your promise to me. ³⁰ With my own eyes I have seen what you have done to save your people, ³¹ and foreign nations will also see this. ³² Your mighty power is a light for all nations, and it will bring honor to your people Israel." ³³ Jesus' parents were surprised at what Simeon had said. ³⁴ Then he blessed them and told Mary, "This child of yours will cause many people in Israel to fall and others to stand. The child will be like a warning sign. Many people will reject him, ³⁵ and you, Mary, will suffer as though you had been stabbed by a dagger. But all this will show what people are really thinking."

Anna Speaks about the Child Jesus

³⁶ The prophet Anna was also there in the temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. In her youth she had been married for seven years, but her husband died. ³⁷ And now she was eighty-four years old.^[c] Night and day she served God in the temple by praying and often going without eating.^[d]

³⁸ At that time Anna came in and praised God. She spoke about the child Jesus to everyone who hoped for Jerusalem to be set free.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ After Joseph and Mary had done everything that the Law of the Lord commands, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰ The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him.

Sermon

Hymn #123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring; O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

4 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

5 For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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.

Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Give Thanks to God

We thank you for continuing to support the church even though we cannot meet in person at this time. Please send your tithes and offerings to PO Box 444, Redwood Falls, or donate on our church website. Thank you!

Offertory Prayer

Lord of Peace and Hope, we thankfully give these generous gifts as an expression of all that You have given us. As the prophets foretold, Your son was born for the redemption of our sins. We humbly acknowledge that of all the gifts we have received, Your gift of a babe in a manger, is the one that truly matters. We prayerfully ask You to increase our ability to help others discover anew the best Christmas message ever, the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Doxology Hymn #606

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. Amen.

Go in God's Name

Hymn #136

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude: Elaine Hagen

The Ringing of the Church Bell (Usher)

Visits/Worship-If you would like an in-person, over the phone, or zoom visit with Pastor Scott, please contact him at 627-5486. If you would be interested in attending one of the in-person worship services, please contact Pastor Scott.

Annual Reports ~ Annual Reports are due to the Church office by January 6, 2021!

Announcement ... The Second Sunday of January we will have our installation of officers. We will do the worship service on Zoom that day at 10:15 am. An email will be sent to you with directions.

Imagination Library ~ We're looking for a few good people to be our next "Imagination Angel". Will you donate, so a child in our area can receive a story book each month until they enter Kindergarten? It only takes \$30 to bless a child for one year with the gift of reading. You can mail donations to "Imagination Library-FPC", PO Box 444, RWF, MN or give online at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/> (make sure to designate Redwood Area to receive your donation). This program is entirely supported by donations and will only continue with your generosity.

We thank our community partners First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls, Redwood Lions Club, Rotary Club of Redwood Falls and Ruby's Pantry. Thank you!

Looking at the Week Ahead:

Sunday, December 27: 10:15 am: Worship LIVE on Facebook

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Our Sunday morning service is on our local channels...

Nuvera (Channel 3), Media-Com (Channel 8): Mondays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 7 pm!

Pray for The Following:

Pray for the unchurched and lonely.

Pray for people living in our communities, the disenfranchised and people in other countries.

Pray for those who are having financial or marital difficulties.

Pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Pray for those seeking employment.

Pray for our leaders at the city, county, state and national level and all military personnel.

Pray for those in need of food, medicine and shelter.

Pray for our church leaders and teachers.

Pray for our local, national, world political leaders.

Birthdays: 30th – Rick Kramer & Savannah Carroll, January 1st – William Prouty, 2nd – Aaron Rohlik

Anniversaries: Today – Julie & Ernie Fiala

Members of our Church Family in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or Other Facilities:

Millie Bunting, Jeanette Kotval, Bob & Bunny Nolting, Ardis Alexander, Bob Brown

All Those Fighting Cancer: Rick Kramer, Alexis Martin, Sharon King,

Kathy Tiffany (Glen Tiffany's wife/Donna Potter's sister-in-law), Mark Grommesch (Gerry & Deb Hess's son-in-law)

Pray for all those fighting other diseases: Shellie Mammen (lupus), Corrine Gertsema (multiple sclerosis),

Tripp Meyers (epilepsy)

If you know of something/someone to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.