

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 5, 2021 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Ministers: The members of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude: Elaine Hagen

Ringing of the Church Bell

Advent Candle Service: Confirmation Student Lauren Miller & Family

L: Today we relight the candle of HOPE. Now we light the candle for the second Sunday in Advent. This is the candle of PEACE. (Light two purple candles)

L: As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace.

L: From the prophet Isaiah: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." –Isaiah 9:6-7

L: From the Gospel of John: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." –John 14:27

L: Let us pray: Gracious God, Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and in our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and in the countries of our world. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give us the courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.

L: Let us sing Hymn #123 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear."

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.

Call to Worship

L: Blessed is the Holy One our God,

P: who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem us.

Prayer of Invocation

Merciful God, You sent Your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way of our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #132**

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

1 *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

2 *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

3 *Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

***Call of Confession**

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

God of the future, You are coming in power to bring all nations under Your rule. We confess that we have not accepted Your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring Your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse Your justice and peace. In Your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome Your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

***Time for Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

L: With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

P: Thanks be to God.

***Response Hymn #93 “Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (vs. 1)**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

***Share the Peace of Christ with One Another**

Proclaim God’s Word

Anthem: Chancel Choir

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:68-79

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel! He has come to save his people. 69 Our God has given us a mighty Savior[a] from the family of David his servant. 70 Long ago the Lord promised by the words of his holy prophets 71 to save us from our enemies and from everyone who hates us. 72 God said he would be kind to our people and keep his sacred promise. 73 He told our ancestor Abraham 74 that he would rescue us from our enemies. Then we could serve him without fear, 75 by being holy and good as long as we live. 76 You, my son, will be called a prophet of God in heaven above. You will go ahead of the Lord to get everything ready for him. 77 You will tell his people that they can be saved when their sins are forgiven. 78 God’s love and kindness will shine upon us like the sun that rises in the sky.[b] 79 On us who live in the dark shadow of death this light will shine to guide us into a life of peace.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

For fifteen years[a] Emperor Tiberius had ruled that part of the world. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod[b] was the ruler of Galilee. Herod’s brother, Philip, was the ruler in the countries of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was the ruler of Abilene. 2 Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests.[c] At that time God spoke to Zechariah’s son John, who was living in the desert. 3 So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, “Turn back to God and be baptized! Then your sins will be forgiven.” 4 Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said, “In the desert someone is shouting, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him. 5 Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill. Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads. 6 Then everyone will see the saving power of God.’”

Sermon

***Hymn #96 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

1 *On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*

2 *Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

3 *We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.*

4 *Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more. O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.*

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Page 35 in Hymnal)

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

Minute for Mission: Adrienne Danielson

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Give Thanks to God

God's Tithes and Your Offering Received

Offertory: Elaine Hagen

***Response Hymn #144 "In the Bleak Mid Winter" (vs. 4)**

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what can I give him: give my heart.

***Offertory Prayer**

Gracious and Giving God, we once again prepare for the birth of Your chosen Son. Through the voices of prophets and preachers, You have been heard in the driest deserts and the steepest valleys. Unfurl our hearts and open our minds so that we may hear Your salvation story anew. Giving this money is a worshipful gesture of our unending alleluias to You. We dedicate this offering to Your Kingdom work. Amen.

***Hymn #347**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"

Holy Communion

***Benediction**

***Postlude:** Elaine Hagen

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Year of Equality

Did you know? John Woolman was an influential colonial Quaker preacher, author, early abolitionist, and advocate of just treatment of Native Americans. He was largely responsible for American Quakers' voluntary abandoning of slavery. Much of Mr. Woolan's influence was derived from practicing what he preached: He was careful, for example, not to wear clothing made in any way by the labor of slaves.

Equality Library

"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Proverbs 18:15

It can be hard to understand the complexities of racism in 21st century America, and even harder to know what to do about it. Thankfully, God has provided us with many guides for the journey! Please check out a book from the "Equality Library" and read up. The books are located in the narthex, at the top of the stairs.

-The Matthew 25 Committee

Mittens & More Trees ~ We are collecting items for Share the Spirit with our Mittens & More Trees in the Narthex. Please donate new items including; toys, arts/crafts supplies, games, puzzles, quilts, blankets, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. **The trees will be up until December 5!** Thank you!

Imagination Library ~ Are you an "Imagination Angel"?! It only takes \$30 to bless a child for one year with the gift of reading. You can mail donations to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 444, RWF, MN or give online at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/> (make sure to designate Redwood Area to receive your donation).

Checks should be written to: First Presbyterian Church with "Imagination Library" in the memo line. Thank you!

Reminder: Just a reminder that December is the last month you can donate to the Deacon's Backpacks for Mexico project!

Christmas Eve Friendship Meal ~ Our Christmas Eve friendship meal is back! After a year off for Covid precautions, we are joyfully looking forward to gathering again for Christmas fellowship. The meal will immediately follow Christmas Eve worship. We are looking for folks who would like to contribute a soup or dessert, and for people who are willing to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Please contact Pastor Scott or Adrienne Danielson if you would like to assist with the Christmas Eve Friendship meal.

Mission Service Team (MST) - Costa Rica Trip ~ After two postponed trips due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions, the Redwood Falls Mission Service Team is busy preparing for a return trip to Roblealto Bible Home near San Jose, Costa Rica, February 26- March 6, 2022. The team includes, Ella & Shari Fuhr, Jane Hulterstrum, Terri Maguire, Kris Myers, Anna Smith and Ann & Bruce Tiffany and possibly a couple others. Help support the team and enjoy a night out of the kitchen on Wednesday, December 15, from 5-7:30 pm, at Pizza Ranch. Team members will be greeting guests and bussing tables during this time. Pizza Ranch will donate 10% of the evening's sales, (eat in/ take out/delivery) plus tips to our team!

December Communion Servers: Ruling Elder Scott Kohler, Fred & Jenny Bloedow, Nathan Stephens, Karen Speros, Leon King, Kathy Peterson

December Ushers: Head Usher Dan Fuhr, Ella & Max Fuhr, Randy & Lynn Juell, Brent Prouty, Aaron Rohlik, Paige Paplow, Keegan, Shellie & Kyron Mammen, Pete Fuhr

Deacon of the Month: Scott Goodyear, **Today's Greeters:** Donovan & Cassy Sharpe, Brady & Abbi Stough



235 East 4th Street, PO Box 444

Office Phone: 507-627-8751

Dining Room Phone: 507-627-2430

Manse Phone: 507-627-5486

Office Email: churchofc@hotmail.com

Pastor Email: scott_prouty@hotmail.com

Church Website: fpcrwf.org

Looking at the Week Ahead:

Sunday, December 5: 9:00 am: Sunday School
9:15 am: Choir Practice
10:15 am: Worship with Holy Communion
Following Worship: Congregational Meeting
Sydney & Jacob Gertsema Packing Weekend Food Bags

Monday, December 6: Noon: Pastor Scott has Rotary Meeting
Afternoon: Dorie Oja Use of Church
7-9:00 pm: Special Session Meeting

Tuesday, December 7: 9:30 am: Pastor Scott visits Ardis Alexander
10:00 am: Pastor Scott visits Barb Brown
1:00 pm: Pastor Scott visits Dorothy Symes
1:30 pm: Pastor Scott visits Bunny Nolting
2:00 pm: Pastor Scott visits Bob Nolting
2:30 pm: Pastor Scott visits Joyce McKay
3:00 pm: Pastor Scott visits Millie Bunting
3:45 pm: Pastor Scott visits John & Sue Tiffany

Wednesday, December 8: 3:45 pm: Youth Club
6:00 pm: Confirmation
7:00 pm: 4Hs

Thursday, December 9: 11:00 am: Pastor Scott visits Don Danger

Friday, December 10: 7:30 am: Pastor Scott has Dollars for Scholars Meeting

Sunday, December 12: Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am: Sunday School

9:15 am: Choir Practice

10:15 am: Worship - Youth Christmas Music

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: Today - Tom Stough, 8th - Travis Rebstock, 10th - Corrine Gertsema, 11th - Tony Miller

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

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

Dorothy Symes, Lucille Byram, Joyce McKay, Janean McKay

All Those Fighting Cancer: Julie Fiala's sister, Jill Nelson

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.