

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude: Elaine Hagen

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting Reading: *Confirmation student Eloise Brozek & her Family*

Peace Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray You hear us when we call.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky – sun and moon and stars. By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.

Today we light two candles to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Hope. (Light the first candle.) We name this candle Peace. (Light the second candle.)

We, too, are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of peace. Even when violence and fear are raging and peace seems like a pipe dream, we set our face steadily towards the light.

Listen now to the plea of the apostle Paul: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:6-7).

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to become the signs of peace that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's peace. Amen.

Hymn #82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 40:1-5)

One: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

All: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

One: A voice cries out:

All: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

All: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Prayer of Invocation

Merciful God, You sent Your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for 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 #347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”**

***Call to 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.

***Prayer of Confession**

God of our Salvation, we confess that we resent waiting, even for You. We are so accustomed to moving, thinking, caring, and acting quickly, that your sense of timing can make us feel frustrated and anxious. We also confess that we do not like some of things that happen while we wait. We are appalled at continual violence, indifference to the needs of the poor, weak and disabled. We ask for Your forgiveness, and we ask for the power of Your Spirit to make us whole, holy people who reflect Your image. We ask, too, that You create peace in us, as we learn to wait with open eyes to Your presence in us and in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ whose coming we await.

***Time for Silent Prayers of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon:** (adapted from Psalm 85:2-7)

The Psalmist says: You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You pardoned all their sin. You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord. People of God, Your sins are forgiven.

***Response Hymn #136 “Go Tell It on The Mountain” (Refrain)**

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

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

Proclaim God's Word

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Moment for Children: Adrienne Danielson

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

***Hymn #143** “Angels from the Realm of Glory”

***Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles’ Creed (ecumenical version)

Minute for Mission: Michael Joldersma

Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Give Thanks to God

Call for the Offering

God’s Tithes and Your Offering Received

Offertory: Elaine Hagen

***Responsive Hymn #128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”** (vs. 1)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

***Offertory Prayer**

Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with Your love; through the one who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***Hymn #145** “What Child Is This”

***Benediction**

***Postlude:** Elaine Hagen

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

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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 10, 2023 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

December Ushers: Head Usher: Dan Fuhr, Shari, Max & Lucas Fuhr, Brent Prouty,
Aaron & Amber Rohlik, Keegan, Shellie, Kyron & Ethin Mammen, Ralph Revier

Deacons of the Month: Scott Goodyear

Today's Greeter: Ryan & Lindsey Kramer

December Money Counter: Tony Miller

Thank You: *Thank you for keeping me in your prayers and sending cards and well wishes after my surgery! I appreciate the thoughtfulness of the entire congregation. - Rhonda Joldersma*

Thank You: *Dear Members and Deacons, Thank you for the gift box of goodies! It came just in time for my finals week at school and was just what I needed to lift my spirits up. I'm so grateful for such a supportive church family and I appreciate you thinking of me!~ Lauren Karnitz*

Thank You: *Thank you for your prayers and cards in the loss of my mother, Dorothy. ~ Steven Symes*

Thank You: Thank you Elaine Hagen for the beautiful bulletin cover!

Jewelry... Corrine Danielson was gifted a lot of new jewelry from a friend. She would like to pass it out to people in need at her home from noon to 5 pm, on Sunday, December 17. Her address is 405 E Flynn St. Her phone number is 507-627-2313, if you have any questions.

Help Needed ~ We are looking for more individuals to learn how to use the church camera. If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott or Lee Davis know. Thanks! Pastor Scott

Position Opening ~ We are still looking for a church custodian!!! Please stop into/or call the church office for more information!!!

Bible Study ~ We have two weekly Bible studies on Wednesdays. At 7 am, we read and study the Old Testament (Psalms) and at 2 pm, the New Testament (1 Peter).

Christmas Eve ~ Reminder: There is NO morning worship. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 5 pm, Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner: 6pm!

2024 Per-Capita: \$45/\$9.80: General Assembly, \$5.50: Synod, \$29.70: Presbytery

January Chimes Deadline: Sunday, December 17, 2023

Annual Report Deadline: January 5, 2024

Annual Meeting: January 21, 2024

Looking at the Week Ahead

Sunday, December 10:

9:00 am: Sunday School

9:15 am: Choir Practice

10:15 am: Worship

Monday, December 11:

10:00 am: Pastor Scott has Zoom Meeting

Noon: Pastor Scott has Rotary

7:00 pm: Session Meeting

Tuesday, December 12:

Church Office Closed

All Day: Pastor Scott has LINC Meeting

7:00 pm: Mission Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 13:

Church Office Closed

7:00 am: Old Testament Bible Study

3:00 pm: New Testament Bible Study

4:00 pm: Youth Club

6:00 pm: Confirmation/ *Meal: Bentson*

Thursday, December 14:

9:00 am: Pastor Scott visits Bob & Bunny Nolting

11:00 am: Pastor Scott visits Ralph Revier

5:30 pm: Deacon Meeting

Friday, December 15:

2:00 pm: Pastor Scott has a Wedding Rehearsal

Sunday, December 17:

Chimes Deadline

9:00 am: Sunday School

9:00 am: Choir Practice

10:15 am: Worship-Adult Choir & Youth Christmas Celebration

Following Worship: Packing Weekend Food Bags - *Hicks*

2:00 pm: Pastor Scott Officiates Wedding

6:00 pm: YFA Christmas Party

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 Members of our Church Family that have recently passed away:

Millie Bunting - Please keep Millie's family in your thoughts and prayers.

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 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: Corrine Gertsema, 11th: Tony Miller, 13th: Marlys Mathiowetz, 14th: Shelby Enright, Nicki VanderLinden, 15th: Bob Nolting, 16th: Sheena Rudenick, Hadley Martin*

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

Bob & Bunny Nolting, Sue Tiffany

All Those Fighting Cancer: *Ralph Revier, Mark Pankonin (Shari Fuhr's brother), Sally Sick (Julie Fiala's sister)*

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

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty

First Presbyterian Church

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