

Assemble in God’s Name

**Prelude:** Elaine Hagen

**Ringin**

**Welcome**

**Advent Candle Lighting Reading:** *Confirmation Student Eliza Bentson & Her Family*

Hope 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 one candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Hope. *(Light the candle.)*

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of hope. Even when better days seem very far away and the weight of the world seems to crush your promises, we set our face steadily towards the light.

Listen now to the prayer of an ancient poet: *“For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 67:5-8).*

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week, help us to become the signs of hope 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 hope. Amen.

**Hymn #88**                    **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** (vs. 1)

**Call to Worship**

**L:** The day of the Lord is surely coming;

**P:** the promise of God will be fulfilled.

**Prayer of Invocation**

Faithful God, Your promises stand unshaken through all the generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\*Hymn #105**                    **“People, Look East”**

**\*Call to Confession:** (Matthew 3:2-3)

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. 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 expected 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 Prayers of Confession**

**\*Assurance of Pardon:** (Isaiah 12:3-4)

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! Amen.

**\*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:** Pastor Scott Prouty

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Responsive Reading:** I Corinthians 1:3-9

Page 1385

**Scripture Lesson:** Mark 13:24-37

Page 1215

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn #384**                    **“Soon and Very Soon”**

**\*Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles’ Creed (Page 35 in Hymnal)

**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**

Great God of wonderful surprises: we enter this season of preparation for Your Son’s coming, looking not for just a memory of past events, but anticipating a return. We strive to get our lives in order and pray that our giving of ourselves to these preparations might reflect the earth-shaking importance of his coming. Help us to give ourselves generously, for we do not know the day or the hour. We pray in the name of the one who will come. Amen.

**\*Hymn #132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

**Holy Communion**

**\*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 3, 2023 ~ First 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

**December Communion Servers: Ruling Elder Dave Danielson**, Bob Alexander, Matt Tiffany,  
Nathan Stephens, Shari Fuhr, Scott Goodyear, Leon King

**Deacons of the Month:** Scott Goodyear  
**Today’s Greeter:** Donavan & Cassi Sharpe  
**December Money Counter:** Tony Miller

**Thank You ~** Thank you Char Gilland for sharing your time, talent and countless hours of planning, prepping and organizing of the Piecemakers for over 20 years.  
Char, you have devoted so much of yourself to making the Piecemakers everything that it is and everything that it has given back to the community. Your effortless caring and connection to working to help others will forever be treasured by all the lives you have touched over the years. ~ *Thank You Char!!!*

**Thank You ~** Thank you Elaine Hagen for the beautiful bulletin cover!

**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 (Hebrews).

**Freezing For Food ~** On **December 6, 7 & 8** Weelborg Ford is having their 20th Annual “Freezing for Food” event. The goal is to collect 20,000 funds of food and cash donations. Donations can be dropped of during the three day event at the Redwood Falls Weelborg location! Let's help out all we can during this holiday season.

	<b><u>Looking at the Week Ahead</u></b>
<b>Sunday, December 3:</b>	9:00 am: Sunday School 9:15 am: Choir Practice 10:15 am: Worship - Holy Communion Following Worship: Packing Weekend Food Bags - <i>Miller Family</i> <b>Congregational Meeting - Approve Pastor’s Package &amp; Nominations</b>
<b>Monday, December 4:</b>	Noon: Pastor Scott has Rotary 2:00 pm: Pastor Scott visits Todd & Kathy Peterson
<b>Tuesday, December 5:</b>	9:00 am: Pastor Scott visits Sue Tiffany 10:30 am: Pastor Scott visits Leon King 4:00 pm: Pastor Scott visits Laura Kohler Afternoon: Dorie Oja Use of Church
<b>Wednesday, December 6:</b>	7:00 am: Old Testament Bible Study 2:00 pm: New Testament Bible Study 4:00 pm: Youth Club 6:00 pm: Confirmation/ <i>Meal: Pastor Scott</i>
<b>Thursday, December 7:</b>	9:00 am: Pastor Scott has Zoom Meeting Noon: Pastor Scott has SEI Board Meeting
<b>Sunday, December 10:</b>	9:00 am: Sunday School 9:15 am: Choir Practice 10:15 am: Worship

**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:**

Dorothy Symes & Gary Hindt, please keep both families 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: Mackenzie Toomer, 4th: Becky Stephens, 5th: Tom Stough, 8th: Travis Rebstock*

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

*Millie Bunting, 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.**

