



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Place to Believe, Belong, and Become

*Living as disciples of Jesus, practicing hospitality,
bringing hope through worship, prayer, and fellowship*

December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

JOYFULLY LIVING INTO HOPE

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

PRELUDE “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” Tim Matthews

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

INVOCATION *(Let us join in as we invoke the majesty and greatness of God)*

God of flaming truth and burning compassion, give to your people the courage to turn to you with awe but without utter fear. You are so great; we are so small. You are so holy; we are so common. You are sublimely loving; we are creatures of entrenched self-interest. As we turn to you, turn to us we pray, and in the light of your Presence let us find our true love and worship. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN #105 (red) “What Child is This”

What child is this who, laid to rest / On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, / While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

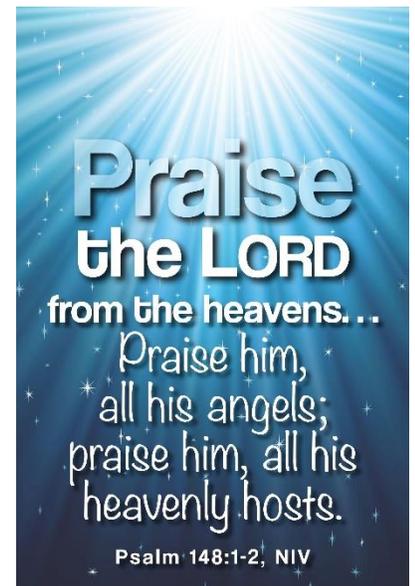
This, this is Christ the King, / Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, / The Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, / Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here / The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, / Come, peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, / Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain



CALL TO CONFESSION

My sisters and brothers in Christ, our God does not ask for outpourings of guilt, but for repentance. Repentance means a determined, and often costly, about-turn from sin to the ways of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Let us open hearts and minds as we join in)*

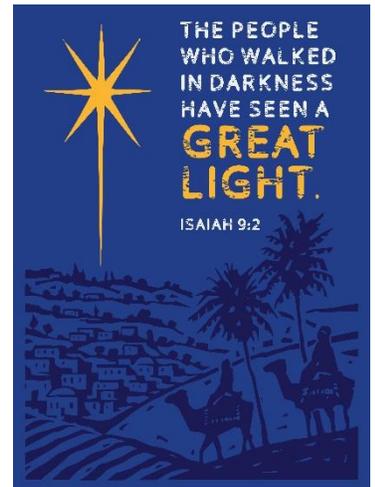
If we feel sorry for ourselves when we sin, yet are rarely sorry for the damage done to others, and remain slow to make amends... *Lord have mercy.*

If we outwardly apologize and put on a show of making amends, yet in our hearts remain far from radical repentance...

Christ have mercy.

So that we may get real with ourselves, recognizing and admitting how far we have may have wandered and how low we have fallen... *Lord have mercy.*

pause for silent confession



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: The living Word of God does not come to carp and condemn, but to rescue and re-create us. By the unique authority of Christ Jesus, I proclaim to you: Your sins are forgiven and your hope restored!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *(Feel free to offer your greetings in the Chat Box)*

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! **And also with you.**

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.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood

will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 5:1-5; Romans 12:9-21

...Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we^[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we^[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

...⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Walking in Darkness with the Torch of Hope”

Pastor Banu Moore

ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

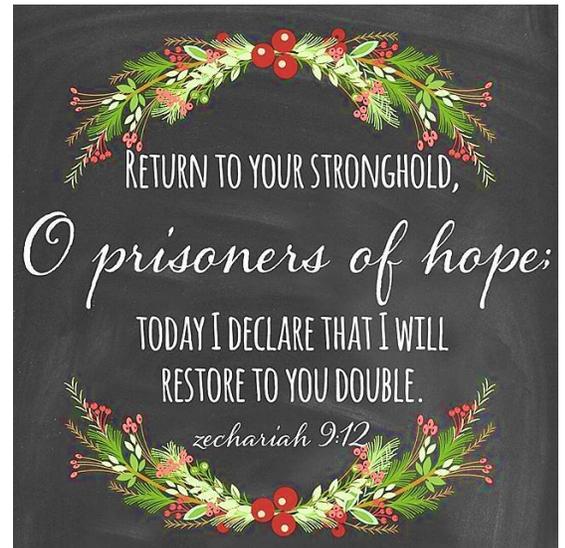
based on Isaiah 40:3-5

We hear a voice crying out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” We believe that 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

HYMN #5 (blue)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

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.



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.

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 darkness clears away.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We will have a communal sharing time: first with those who have video access, and then with those who are on their land lines. Please also feel free to share your joys and concerns in the Chat Box. We will incorporate all of these in the Prayers of the People, which will appear in the Great Thanksgiving.

OFFERING

“I Wonder as I Wander”

John Niles

DOXOLOGY

*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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Let us join in along as we give thanks for God’s daily provision)*

O God of our righteousness, in whose sight a thousand years are as one day, we come this day offering our gifts. Use them to spread the news that Christ comes so that all may dwell in peace. Help us to break down whatever hostility divides our sisters and brothers, and hear us as we dedicate ourselves anew to becoming your agents of reconciliation. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+++ ++++++

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are

full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

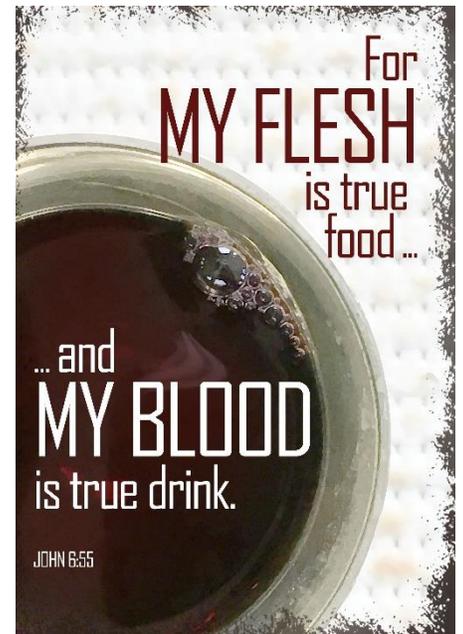
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Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #19 (blue) "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

To a maid engaged to Joseph,
The angel Gabriel came.
Fear not, the angel told her,
"I come to bring good news,
Good news I come to tell you,
Good news, I say, good news.

Fear not, for God is with you,
And you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
Forever reign on high.

For you are highly favored
By the God the Lord of all,
Who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest,
You are most blest, most blessed,
God chose you, you are blest!

How shall this be? said Mary,
I am not yet a wife.
The angel answered quickly,
The power of the Most High
Will come upon you shortly,
Your child will be God's child.

But Mary was most troubled
To hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
To hear the angel's message,
It troubled her to hear.

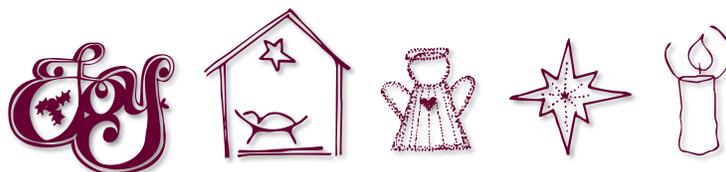
As Mary heard the angel,
She wondered at his words.
Behold, I am your handmaid,
She said unto her God.
So be it; I am ready
According to your word.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Lo, How a Rose is Blooming"

Cindy Berry



ZOOM ACCESS AND OTHER INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship Advent 2 December 6 10:00
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85178546853>

Meeting ID: 851 7854 6853

Dial in: 646 558 8656 301 715 8592 (alternate number)

Intercessory Prayer Meeting
Tuesday, December 8 10am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8490179232>

Meeting ID: 849 0179 2321

Dial in: 646 558 8656 301 715 8592 (alternate number)

Join us for a **Prayer Walk on Monday, December 7 at 11am**. We will walk around the Church and the PERC along with the neighborhood seeking God's blessing, discernment and abundance for our congregation and the neighborhood. If you are unable to walk, please come and join by sitting in the Parking Lot or the PERC Prayer Garden.

We will begin an Advent study entitled "The Promise of Messiah" by John Birch on Wednesday, December 9 at 7pm.

In this series of four studies, we will look at how the Jews and scholars examined the words of the prophets, looking for signs of a promised Messiah. Themes are: 1) The Servant, 2) The Place, 3) The Messenger, 4) The Word... The study has an opening discussion question to get the chat going, a short Bible study, additional discussion questions around the issues raised each week, and prayers. You can pick up a copy from the church. PDF version will be e-mailed.

We will finish by the end of December. There is plenty of fascinating stuff—you won't be bored!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83810848605>

Meeting ID: 838 1084 8605 Dial in: 646 558 8656 301 715 8592 (alternate)



JOIN US FOR CAROLING NIGHT...

Thursday, December 17 at 7pm

on ZOOM at the PERC

We will sing carols, share cocoa and have a jolly time by the fireplace with candles and tree lights... A family carol booklet can be picked up next week on Saturday along with Pastor Banu's special hot cocoa mix...

PDF version of the booklet will also be available, but you might want to pick up a few copies of the colorful version to share and invite friends and family...



INVITATION TO PRAYER

Short Term

Danny Karlik
George Raymond
Al Steigerwald
Megan & Vicki
Mike Crary
Kyle Bartlett
Stacy Coleman
Noah Mensing
Terri Miller
Sarah Vitale
Terry Knapp
Teegan
Susanna R.
Terri Moore
Nicholas Flynn
Margarita Martinez
Jan Bartlett
Luann Morin
Larry Simmons
Joseph
Laura Conley
Sandy Slack

Margaret Wylie
Dorothy Noble
Lyell Brown
Shirley Martinez
Crystal Courier
Paula Cridley
Maureen
Chrissy
Raymond Flanigan

Long Term

Jared Clark
Bob Short
Bob Schuster
Wyn Wilson
Nancy Canale
Colleen Pinckney
Carl Mattison
Brian Dahl
Rafferty Family
Becky Denton
Damian Moore
Chris Coleman

Sean K.
Tracy B.
Ben Miller
Marcella Savarese
Michael Graybill
Candy Graham
Lynne Osburn
Mary Casselman
Terri Young
Michael Holmes
Leeroy & Betty Green
Dan Lupo
Darryl Schmidt
Laurie Connors
Ann Landers
Franny Hansen
Angi Tharakan (Asha & Amrit)
Kevin Casselman
Jay Clark & Emily
David Bartlett
Bob Wright
Charles Zambito

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING AFTER LOSS

Eric Keough
Barb Estep
Jeannette Chappell
Lloyd Holdredge
Cristobal Gomez-Ramos
Jeffrey Campbell
George Floyd
Kim Whiffen

Marion Cunningham
Joe Flanigan
Vic Fandrich
Sue Baird
Roger Graham
Jim Smith
John Turney
Betty Emo

David Atkins
Genny Salvatore
Judy Scroger
Lois James

*We pray for all those
who are grieving loved
ones lost to the virus*

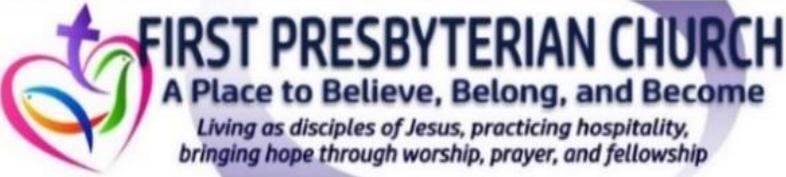
Special Prayer Needs

- Leaders of our church: elders, deacons, staff, pastors, Presbytery
- Holy Spirit–led guidance for our country’s leaders as we work together for unity
- Those who are in confined spaces during this pandemic, especially those who are in nursing homes and prisons as well as pregnant mothers
- Safety of our healthcare workers and first responders
- Congregational transformation in a virtual world
- Health of our earth; well-being of our farmers
- People involved in wars: resolution of conflict and for peace
- Opportunities to share the Gospel, so a great harvest is sown for the Kingdom
- Persecution of Christians and others in the world
- Improved race relations in our community and country
- Drug epidemic; pray for addicted and children involved

MISSIONARIES AND LOCAL AGENCIES

Gildards (France), Birds (Tyrone, GA), Esslinger-Lees (South Korea), Calvary Food Pantry & other food pantries, Chapel House, Hospice, Matthew House, Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, HUGS (Help Understanding Grief), Hospital, Prison Ministry.

WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE ON THE FRONTLINES DAILY, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOM WE KNOW AND ARE CLOSE TO US... Doctors, Nurses, NPs, PAs, EMTs, Pharmacists, Fire Fighters, Police Officers, Corrections Officers, Lab Workers, Navy Hospitals Staff, National Guard, Army Corps of Engineers... Truck/bus drivers, grocery store employees, delivery people—everyone who deals with the public! Lord you know them all by name lest we forget...



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Reverends Banu and James Moore, Pastors

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Music Director	Judy Eddy
Organist	Donna Riester