

First Presbyterian Church
Lake Park, Iowa
www.fpclakepark.org
10:30am

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Musical Prelude
Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader/ On Each Sunday of Advent we will light one more candle, a sign of anticipation and hope in a world often full of sorrow and shadows. When all four candles are lit at the end of Advent we will then be ready to begin the Feast of Light—Christmas. May we learn to wait and understand, filled with hope instead of greed, filled with the Light of the World Jesus instead of the darkness of commercialism. Come Lord Jesus!

L/ Come Let us worship Christ, the one true Light!

Reader/ We light the first candle to remember to bring the light of Christ to all those we meet. Hear this word from scripture: “While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you might become the children of Light!” (John 12:26)

One Purple Candle is lit

Hymn of Lighting-see insert-Light One Candle for Messiah-verse 1

Exchange of Peace

L/ Let us see the Light of Christ in each other. Share with each other the sign of peace.

Prayer of Confession

All/ We are an impatient people. We confess that we rush forward. We confess that we are all about celebration without stopping and preparing. You have promised to forget your wrath and anger Lord, to forgive our sins. But in our rush and our self-centeredness we forget your ways and do not take your promises to heart. We look for security in things and people and

fail to live in your mighty arms alone. We are distracted by worries and possessions, thinking they are worth more than the greatness of your grace. We desire things that do not last but are here immediately instead of those which are eternal but take time. Wake us up Lord in this time of Advent. Open our eyes to your goodness, your mercy, your love. Hear us, forgive us, restore us.

L/ BE assured and receive the hope of the Spirit. God does not abandon you and God is faithful. He hears our cries and heals our hearts. “God’s anger lasts a moment but God’s favor is a lifetime. Weeping may be for a night but joy comes in the morning.” (Psalm 30: 5)

Hymn -- #244 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Children’s Chat

Special Music

Reading of Scripture

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 64: 1-8 *pages 1161-62

Canticle: # 196 O Come Let Us Adore Him (verse 1)

New Testament Lesson: 2 Peter 1: 1-11 *pages 1893-94

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed (180 AD—Book of Confessions 2.1 – 2.3)

All/ 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Sacrament of the Lord's Table (LOSA 30)

Invitation

L/ The Lord be with you

C/ And also with you

L/ Lift up your Hearts

C/ We lift them to God

L/ Give shouts of Praise

**C/ We praise God: Father, Son
and Spirit**

L/ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of Life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

C/ Christ the Light has come, Christ the Light died and rose again, Christ the Light is coming again!

L/ With this bread and cup we remember...Fill us with your light and bring the gift of peace on this earth. Come Lord Jesus!

C/ Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (using Debts)

Communion of God's people

Please sing Come to the Table of Grace found in the inside cover of the blue Presbyterian Hymnals. (Grace, peace, love, hope, joy)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (from our Reformed Tradition)

L/ Merciful God, no one knows the day or hour of Christ's coming. Keep us ever watchful, doing Your work, learning Your Words, bringing Your peace. Give us the joy of receiving Jesus when we least expect Him.

C/ Open our lives to His coming in many ways throughout our days, make us glad in the hope of Christ's coming, and give us the hope of expectant waiting. Accept our thanks and praise for

your gift of Light and Life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Blair Gilmer Meeks, devotional author, 2005)

Sending Hymn: # 245 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Ministry Leaders

Deacons: Jim Kessler & Terry Wiese

Greeters: Korthals Family

Candle Lighters: Dennis & Donna Stoltenberg

Worship Music: Marian Tuinstra

Pastor: Rev. Tim Harmon

All members are ministers of Jesus Christ

Attendance 11/26/17: 42

Offering 11/26/17: \$984.50

Reminder-- there are 70 unpaid per capita- \$33 for 2017

Commercial (Manse) Loan Balance: \$12,704.37

Furnace Loan: \$10,368.51

-HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Kedric Wunder on December 5th, and to Ann McClain on December 7th, and to Kyla Byers on December 9th.

-THANK YOU to everyone who came and helped with the Greening of the Church yesterday. As they say in the song - it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

-THANK YOU to all who have given above and beyond to celebrate our church's 125 years – in traditional ways all at once or more creative ways like \$12.50 a week. Five gifts of \$125.00 and Six gifts of \$12.50 have been received in honor of our 125 years celebration.

-The 2018 Per Capita will increase to \$37.00.

-Bits & Pieces will meet this Wednesday, Dec. 6th at 9:30 a.m.

-CHOIR will meet this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

-The Nominating Team is still searching for Team Members.

-We will be having our MOBILE FOOD PANTRY here at the Church this Thursday, December 7th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We will need volunteers at 12:00 p.m. to unload truck, and at 4:30 p.m. to help with packing and carrying.

-“Home for Christmas 2017” is a Concert and Live Nativity which will be presented on Saturday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the High School Auditorium. This event is sponsored by Lake Park Historical Society, and free will donations will be accepted.

-We are looking forward to beautiful poinsettias surrounding our altar again this year. You may bring them in any time after December 10th, and please remember to let the church office know if yours is In Honor of or In Memory of someone special.

-“Celebrate the Season in Lake Park ” will be on Sunday, December 10th and is sponsored by Historical Society. This will include a noon meal at the Community Center, a bake sale, and a Decorated Christmas Tree contest. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with a detailed list of the events for that day.

-This year’s Sunday School Christmas Program will be “A Charlie Brown Christmas” by Charles Schulz. The program will be presented on Sunday, December 17th during regular worship service. All are invited, and all who are able are asked to please bring some goodies to share for fellowship time after worship that day.

-If anyone has a change of address or phone number that should go in the Church Directory, please notify the office by December 17th so this can all be updated.

-There is a mitten tree at the care center for the residents’ Christmas gifts if anyone is interested in adopting a resident or two for the holiday season. Mittens are available until all adopted, and gifts need to be returned to the care center by December 18th. We greatly appreciate everyone's generosity in helping to make the season a little brighter for everyone at Pearl Valley Rehab and Nursing.

-We are still waiting for a few budget reports and end of year reports. We are REALLY hoping to have them soon.

-Remember - If you would like to receive a text message alert when there is a weather-related cancellation of Sunday morning worship service, please call Lynette in the church office.

-Friday morning Bible Study continues every Friday at 10 a.m. We are studying the book of Matthew.

Advent Verse

The gift of light we thankfully take
But shall it not be alone, for our sake.

The more we give light, one to the other
It shines and it spreads and it glows still further.

Until every spark by friends set aflame,
Until every heart with joy to proclaim.

In the depths of our souls,
A shining sun glows.