

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa

10:00 A. M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Rev. Michael Sydnor

PRELUDE

Janice Ploeger, Organist

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF LOVE
Jacobson Family**

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow

¹ Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 179). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder: A ruler will come from Bethlehem,

People: and he will be the shepherd of peace.¹

Elder: Let us worship God.

***HYMN**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

#131

INVOCATION

(Please be seated)

Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Elder

God of grace, love, and communion, we confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We ignore your commandments, stray from your way, and follow other gods. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sin and raise us to new life that we may serve you faithfully and give honor to your holy name.² (Time of silent prayer). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor

***GLORIA PATRI**

#623

² Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 355). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Pastor

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ' "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. " 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' "

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Elder

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

The Rose Sackett Family
Darold Jacobson (Health Care Center)
Joan Martin Health Issues & Health Care Center)
Shelly Fenner

Michael's sister needs prayers for the Raven Dumones family who died of breast cancer at 31 and left behind a husband and 4 children.

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor
Our Church
Our School
Purple Gang
Doug O'Bannon & Family
Shari O'Bannon
Joyce Deloach
Betty & Harlan Roeder
Willie Lang
Randy Leask
Denny Miller
Steve Schaefer (Methodist Manor for Therapy)
Carol Swanson Poston
Karla Hustedt and her family
Ken Fells Jr.
Dennis Pfrimmer & Family
George & Darlene Franzkowiak
Carol Wendel
Mark Diersen
Dexter Meseck
Malia Meyer

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES

December 17, 2023 Theological Institutions in the PC (USA)

December 24, 2023 Pray for the Commissioned Ruling Elders in the Presbytery

December 31, 2023 Pray for those Elders and Pastors who have gone before us in 2023

Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN "What Child Is This?" #137

SERMON "The Power of Community."

*APOSTLE'S CREED

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #625

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #128

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION SONG "Freely, Freely" (V. 1) #447

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

*POSTLUDE

(*Those who are able please stand.)



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Community Caroling St. Paul Lutheran and First Presbyterian are joining to sing carols at various houses in the Schaller area. The caroling will begin at St. Paul Lutheran at 4:00 p.m. on December 17th.

I hope you can join in bringing Christmas cheer to your neighbors and friends.



Poinsettias

Please help provide our church with a festive look by sharing poinsettias for the season.

REMEMBER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Bonnie Currie

(Wakefield Health Care Center, 306 Ash Street, Wakefield, NE 68784

Brett Currie

Shane Reimers

Wanda Jeppeson (Methodist Manor)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2023

17 Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)

9:00 am Sunday School Classes

9:00 am Confirmation Class

10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)

4:00 pm Community Caroling

18 Monday

7:00 pm Session Meeting

20 Wednesday

NO PURPLE GANG

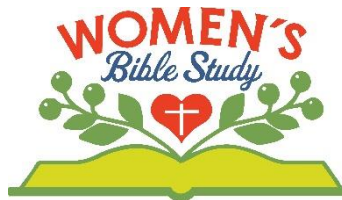
24 Sunday (Christmas Eve)

There will be no Sunday School Classes, Confirmation Class or Sunday morning Worship.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for Christmas Eve Christmas Carols, Scriptures, Communion and Candle Lighting Service on December 24th at 6:30 p.m. (Masks are optional)



invited!

NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies Bible Study "Developing Inner Strength". We will be meeting for lesson #1 on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 pm. All are



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHRISTMAS JOY

November 26th thru December 25th

THE PERFECT GIFT



Christmas Joy Offering envelopes and children's coin boxes can be found at the back of the Sanctuary throughout the season of

Advent.

PLEASE mark your checks Presbyterian and in the memo line mark Christmas Joy Offering. Please give generously. Mail your checks to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 69, Schaller, IA 51053 or you can drop the check off at the State Bank of Schaller any time during December.

2023 PER CAPITA

2023 Per Capita amount is \$48.35. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".

DECEMBER ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Mark McDonough (Dec. 17th)

Julie Langner (Dec. 24th)

Janice Ploeger (Dec. 31st)



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

December 17th
Jacobson Family

December 24th
Franken Family



BIRTHDAY WISHES:

- Joann Reimers (Dec. 17th)
- Jim McDonough (Dec. 20th)
- David Siebrecht (Dec. 21st)
- Bruce Mentzer (Dec. 26th)

FOOD PANTRY:

REMINDER: WHEN BRINGING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY, PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATES.