

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa

10:00 A. M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Rev. Michael Sydnor

PRELUDE

Janice Ploeger, Organist

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF LOVE

People: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . . First Sunday of Advent (The Jacobson Family)

Reader: The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

People: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Second Sunday of Advent

Reader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

People: the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

Third Sunday of Advent

Reader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

People: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reader: The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

People: She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”

(Light three purple candles and a pink one.)

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

People: Amen.¹

¹ Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 164). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

² Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 179). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder: A ruler will come from Bethlehem,

People: and he will be the shepherd of peace.²

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 and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.³ (Time of silent prayer). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor

***GLORIA PATRI** #623

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a Elder

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is

³ Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 190). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

Pastor

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" And Mary said: "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. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Kaitlyn Currie & Jack Mentzer who will be married on Saturday, December 21st.

Mitch Mentzer
Randy Leask

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor
Our Church
Our School
Sue Grieme
Carol Wendel

(Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus,
Eisenberg 4-407, 201 West Center St, Rochester, MN 55902

Florene Cork
Denise King
Terri Rininger
Scott & Velma Woodke
Wanda Jeppeson
Veronica Moyle
Rod Plagman
Richard Morgan
Mark Diersen
Dexter Meseck
Steve Schaefer
Ken Fells Jr.

PRAYER FOR CHURCHES

December 22, 2024

Pray for the Commissioned Ruing Elders in the Presbytery

December 29, 2024

Pray for those Elders and Pastors who have gone before us in 2024

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #141

SERMON "Praise is Catching!"

***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** "Joy to the World" #125

***BENEDICTION**

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

***EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES**

***POSTLUDE**

(*Those who are able please stand.)

2024 PER CAPITA

2024 Per Capita amount is \$53.95. 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".

On this fourth Sunday in Advent, we sincerely welcome all who have come to worship. May Christ the Lord touch us with his grace, so that we may each be refreshed in mind, renewed in spirit and filled with the love of God.



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



BIRTHDAY WISHES
Bruce Mentzer (Dec. 26th)

SCHEDULE FOR LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dec. 22nd
The Jacobson Family

Dec. 24th
The Franken Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2024

22 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. In-Person Worship

24 Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion & Candle Lighting Service

25 Wednesday

Merry Christmas

29 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. In-Person Worship



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

December 1st thru December 24th



The Christmas Joy Offering envelopes and children's coin boxes can be found at the back of the Sanctuary through the season of Advent.

A year that whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."

