

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
December 13, 2020 – 10:15 AM
3rd Week of Advent**

***Regulars and visitors alike, thank you for being here and bringing your worship to share with us. To enhance everyone's worship experience, please silence your cell phones. Thanks for helping.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CANDLE LIGHTING

One: Today we light the third Advent candle. This is the pink candle which reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel made that wonderful announcement to her.

All: Strengthen our hearts, for the coming of the Christ is near.

One: We join our hearts with that of the desert gushing with life. We join our joy with that of Mary who sings with excitement for the child to come.

**All: May the light of Christmas love bring joy into our head during the Advent/
Christmas season, and always.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God.

All: For you have clothed me with the garments of salvation; you have covered me with the robe of righteousness.

One: For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up.

All: So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations.

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" vs 1 and 2 #2

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Your spirit is upon us, O God, because you have anointed us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and to comfort all who mourn. This is all your doing and it is wonderful in our sight. As we pass through the portals of your sanctuary, we come bringing our hymns of praise and thanksgiving. Be pleased with our worship as we bless your name.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

All: O God of the Covenant, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The afflicted await good tidings. The brokenhearted would have their wounds bound. The captives still yearn for freedom and those who mourn remain to be comforted. Forgive us who fail to follow Christ's call to faithful ministry; restore us and make us worthy to serve in his name.

One: Brothers and sisters, hear what Paul writes concerning the assurance we have in Christ: "May the God of peace ... sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and will do it."

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emanuel"

vs. 1 and 2 #9

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

GOSPEL:**John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

SERMON:**Rev. Gary Hedding****HYMN: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" vs, 1 #11****CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:****POSTLUDE:**