

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
December 4, 2022 – 10:15 AM
Advent 2**

PRELUDE:

WELCOME:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Ken is ill and will not be with us today. In his place, Terri Koca will be preaching and the Congregational Meeting and Session will be moderated by Rev. Barry Boyer.

The flowers today were donated by Esther Frazier in memory of Dick.

CANDLE LIGHTING:

One: Today we re-light the candle of hope and light the Second Advent candle as we focus on the way God broke into human history to provide us with a Savior. We light the candle for peace, and remember that God lights our path.

ALL: We wait in peace.

One: Through the prophets, God tells us about a child who will lead the way into peace.

ALL: We wait in peace.

One: We remember John the baptizer as a voice crying out in the wilderness to “prepare the way of the Lord!” And so we prepare our hearts and minds as we wait for the blessed gift of Christ’s birth.

ALL: We wait in peace.

One: May we offer praise and thanksgiving to God for love that provides for all our needs - even our need for forgiveness?

GATHERING SONG: “Take, O Take Me As I Am” GTG698

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 72

One: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

All: Blessed be your glorious name forever, O God, may your glory fill the whole earth.

One: Let us worship God!.

HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” No. 9

INVITATION TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: If anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone. Let us confess our sins before God and one another. (I John 2:1,2).

All: O God, you judge your people with righteousness; we judge our neighbors either right or wrong. Your servant defended the cause of the poor; it is because of our greed that many still want. You bring deliverance to the needy, but we stand in the way of its being received. You send us a Savior who will crush the oppressor, but we raise up idols in his stead. Make us mindful of your dominion, how you rule while sun and moon endure. May we bow down before you and pay you the tribute that you are due.

One: Know this: if you are willing, you will be taught. If you pause to listen, you will gain knowledge. Reflect on God's statutes and meditate on the commandments. It is God who will give insight to your mind and your desire for wisdom will be granted. Through Christ's intercession on our behalf, we receive the assurance that through him we are forgiven.

SONG RESPONSE "Gloria Patri" No. 579

PASSING THE PEACE:

One: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

(There will be no individual expressions of Passing the Peace.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" No. 11

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live 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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

SERMON: “So You Want To Go To Bethlehem, Do You?” **Rev. Terri Koca**

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION:
“Let Us Break Bread Together” **No 513 vs. 1**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

BENEDICTION CHORUS: “Lord, Dismiss us with Thy Blessing ” **No 539 vs. 1**

POSTLUDE: