

**First Presbyterian Church  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
Worship Service  
December 5, 2021- 10: 15 AM  
Advent 2**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TIME OF CENTERING**

**Pastor Ken:** Today is the second Sunday of Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. This is usually a hectic time of year, a time of preparation. We've just celebrated Thanksgiving, and Black Friday, Cyber Monday and here we are. Let's take a few moments just to stop and catch our breath, and invite God to make God's presence known to us. So, just sit back, relax and get comfortable. Take a couple of deep breaths, close your eyes, and think about God being present with you, where you are, right now. Slowly breathe in God's peace, and slowly exhale your anxieties and fears. Breathe in God's Peace, and exhale your anxieties and fears. Take a moment to savor that and to invite God's Spirit to be present with you, and with each of us as we seek to worship God together. (PAUSE)

**Centering Prayer:**

*Let your Spirit come,*

*Fall upon us now.*

*Let your Spirit come,*

*Fall upon us now.*

*Let your rain fall down,*

*Fall upon our souls,*

*Come and wash us now,*

*Come and make us whole.*

*Let your Spirit come,*

*Fall upon us now.*

*Let your Spirit come,*

*Fall upon us now. AMEN*

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

The first Advent candle is for the prophets who remind us to be prepared.  
(Light the first and second candles)

The second candle of Advent, is for the star of Bethlehem. The star led the wise men to the place where the Christ child was. The star pointed the way to Christ, and reminds us that we too need to look for signs that point us to Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.

Let us pray: Gracious God, in this season of Advent, we become aware that we need to look for signs of your presence. We need to look as the Wise men looked and because they were open to the leading of your spirit, they were led to the place where Jesus was. Help us also to look for those signs around us that remind us of your presence. AMEN

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for you have looked favorably upon your people.

**All: You have raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David.**

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

**All: To give light to those who sit in darkness and guide our feet into the way of peace.**

One: Let us worship God!

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

One: God calls us to “prepare the way of the Lord” and in order to do so we are to “make his paths straight.” While we do strive to do just these things, we often find curves and bumps in the road along the way. Let us confess our sin together so that God can help us continue to prepare the way going forward.

**All: Holy and righteous God, far too often we are a far cry from the holiness you invite us into. And often we fail to live up to your righteous standards for how we are called to live. Refine us with your righteous refiner’s fire to remove all our sinful impulses and impurities. Cleanse us with the fullers’ soap to make us pure and holy once again. Help us to live in a way that would be pleasing to you, our Lord. Amen.**

One: We are not perfect, but we do not need to be. God in Christ is! And God in Christ has taken care of us and this world once again: “Every valley shall be filled ... and the rough ways made smooth.” In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed! May your ears hear this good news, and your eyes see the salvation of God!

### BUILDING THE MORNING PRAYER:

Words By Bob Thomas

*“In the mist of early morning, you are there;  
In the fading light of evening, you are there;  
You are there when we are joyful,  
You are there when we must grieve,  
Yes in each and every moment, you are there.”*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Prayer concerns and joys will be invited from the congregation and after each Prayer concern stated, Pastor will say: “Let us say to the Lord” **ALL: This is our prayer.**

### 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:**

**Luke 1:68-79**

*This is the prophecy Zechariah gave about his son, John the Baptist on the day of his circumcision.*

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old <sup>1</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**GOSPEL:**

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

**SERMON**

**"Out of the Wilderness"**

**Rev. Ken Ribe**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTON**

**POSTLUDE**