

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
December 11, 2022 – 10: 15 AM
Advent 3**

PRELUDE:

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:

Psalm 146

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

All: Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever.

One: The Lord sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind and lifts up those who are bowed down.

All: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN:

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

No. 23

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

One: For God so loved the world that God gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but may have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Let us confess our sins against God and one another. (John 3: 16 & 17).

All: You have taught us to be patient and promised to supply our needs, O God. Yet we grow weary of waiting and restless with our wants. We blame our troubles on brothers and sisters, withholding from them the tolerance and care you have shown to us. O God, forgive our indulgence and help us to stand firm. In Christ you showed patience with the world in spite of the cross Teach us to be patient, that in Christ we may have endurance in spite of our need.

One: Know this: that we are assured of God’s forgiveness, for we have a high priest set over the household of God, Jesus Christ, the new and living way. Let us therefore make our approach in sincerity and confidence, our guilty hearts sprinkled clean, our bodies washed with pure water. The Giver of the promise is to be trusted.

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 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

HYMN OF PREPARATION:**“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”****No. 418 GTG****FIRST SCRIPTURE READING****Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**Psalms 146:5-10**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

SERMON: "Should We Wait for Another"

Rev. Gary Hedding

CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining"

No. 192 GTG

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: