

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
December 12, 2021 – 10:15 AM
Advent 3**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLE LIGHTING

The first candle of Advent is for the prophets who remind us that we need to be prepared.

(Light three candles as one person reads).

The second candle of Advent, reminds us of the star of Bethlehem.

The third candle is for the shepherds to whom the angels came to announce the birth of The Christ Child. The shepherds went to see if it was true. It was. They left the place where the child was, filled with joy and excitement because of what God had shared with them.

Let us remember the JOY of the shepherds. Let us share their excitement about what God has done, and is doing even now. Let us share the JOY and hope the shepherds shared that first Christmas long ago.

Let us pray: You bring Good News to us, O Lord, and we give you thanks. As you included the shepherds long ago, you include even us today. Help us to catch the spirit of your love and grace, so that we too may share the JOY of the shepherds with others. AMEN

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Surely God is my salvation: I will trust and will not be afraid.

All: For the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

One: With joy you will give thanks to the Lord and call on God's name.

All: We will sing you our praises, O God, for you have done glorious things.

One: Let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Our God is a God of justice, waiting to be gracious to you, yearning to have mercy on you. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord. In penitence and faith, let us confess our sins to almighty God. (Isa. 30:18)

All: Source of salvation, what shall we do? Our lives are unworthy of the goodness you offer. We complain of our condition when our wants go unnoticed. Contentment eludes us, since when we have plenty, we still yearn for more. Millions face hunger, while we fret over abundance. Through Christ forgive us, yet grant us no peace until we share our bread with the hungry and our homes with those who lack shelter.

One: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." In Christ we are forgiven.

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:

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL:

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

SERMON:

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Rev. Terri Koca

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: