

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
December 18, 2022 – 10: 15 AM
Advent 4**

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CANDLE LIGHTING

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love, and to remind us that God is the light on our paths.

All: Light up our hearts with your ways.

One: God was with Mary. God was with Joseph. When we face uncertainty, God be with us.

All: Light up our hearts with your ways.

One: God sends Christ to open our hearts to an immense love. God, as we wait,

All: Light up our hearts with your ways.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 80

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

One: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN:

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

No. 36

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

One: This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will forgive their evil deeds, and I will remember their sin no more. In penitence and faith, let us confess our sins to almighty God. (Jer. 31:33, 34).

All: You shower gifts on your people, O God, and forgive their faults. We keep accounts and settle old scores. You make peace, sending Christ as a sign of reconciliation and hope. We make war and call it peace-keeping. You give us a source of confidence as your Spirit is sent into our midst. We cause others to be restless, in our anxiety and self-concern. Have mercy upon us, forgive, and free us, that we may be renewed to serve your people with goodwill.

One: The Most High is called *merciful*, because God has mercy on those who have not yet come into the world; and *gracious*, because God is rich in grace to those who repent and turn to the law; and *compassionate* because God makes compassion abound more and more within all of creation. Live in this knowledge. And be confident that your sins 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 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:**“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”****No. 37****FIRST SCRIPTURE READING****Isaiah 7:10-16**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON:**“Joseph’s Dream, Our Dream, God’s Dream”****Rev. Sandee Kosmo****CLOSING HYMN:****“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”****No. 38****CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:****POSTLUDE:**