

**First Presbyterian Church  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
Worship Service  
December 19, 2021 – 10:15 AM  
Advent 4**

**PRELUDE:**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CANDLE LIGHTING:**

The first candle of Advent is for the prophets who reminded the people to get ready and be prepared for the Promised One.. **(light the first 3 candles)**

The second candle of Advent, reminds us of the star of Bethlehem that led the Wise men to the Christ child.

The third candle is for the shepherds to whom the angels came to announce Christ's birth.

The fourth candle is for the angels. The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all the people." **(light the fourth candle)**

We light the fourth candle today to remind us of the good news: we don't need to live in fear. Christ's presence with us, helps us let go of our fear.

Let us pray together...We are thankful for the message of the angels to the shepherds, O Lord. We too have our fears. We have let our fears tie us up, and they have limited us. Help us, like the shepherds, to let go of our fears so that we can discover anew, the Good News you offer. Fill us with your joy, so that we can overcome fear. AMEN

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

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

One: The us worship God!

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

One: Jesus said, 'Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Let us confess our sin before God and our neighbor. (Matt. 11:28-30)

**All: Most holy God, in Christ you pour out your mercy to forgive our transgression. Hear us now as we confess our sin. We err in our judgment of what you want from us. We seek to appease you with offerings, earn your favor by doing good deeds, or garner a blessing through making some sacrifice. Forgive us our nature that is prone to buy favor, and in Christ restore us to a right relationship with you.**

One: Micah foresees the Coming One, who shall stand and feed the flock. The people shall dwell secure in the majesty of God's name. Christ is our peace, and we can dwell secure in the knowledge that through him 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: Micah 5:2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

### **GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**SERMON: Ed Williams**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:**

**POSTLUDE:**