

**First Presbyterian Church  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
Worship Service  
November 28, 2021 – 10:15 AM  
Advent 1**

**PRELUDE:**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CANDLE LIGHTING:**

The first candle of Advent is for the prophets who proclaimed the Word of the Lord.

*(light the candle)*

The prophet Isaiah said: “I will send my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way. A voice of one calling in the desert: prepare the way for the Lord, Make straight paths for him.”

The prophets reminded people to be prepared for the One who was to come—the Messiah, the Christ. The first candle of Advent reminds us that we too need to be prepared for the day when the Christ shall come again.

Let us pray: Lord, in this season when we spend so much time focusing on giving and receiving gifts, help us to pause long enough to prepare our hearts so that we may grasp the real meaning of this season—that you gave your precious Son so that we could live in relationship with you.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I put my trust.

**All: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

One: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

**All: According to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness sake, O Lord!**

One: Let us worship God!

**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: Great Deliverer, we entrust to you our confession of sin. We are easily discouraged when our good deeds do not make things better. We fear harm to ourselves if we take too firm a stand. Portents of danger arise about us, and we doubt the future you have promised. We close our eyes to the signs and live for the moment. God, in Christ, forgive our cowardice and blindness, for the sake of him to endure the cross for us.**

One: The words of the psalmist remind us that the Lord is upright and good. God instructs sinners in the way of righteousness and leads the humble along paths of steadfast love. So wait upon God all the day long, abide in the covenant, and rely on the truth: God is our salvation and worthy of trust.

## **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:**

#### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

### **GOSPEL:**

#### **Luke 21:25-36**

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**SERMON:**                   **“Regardless We Have Great Hope”**                   **Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller**

### **CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:**

### **POSTLUDE:**