

# **Welcome to Community Presbyterian Church!**

**DECEMBER 20, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Welcome to this Sacred Time and Holy Place of Worship.*

Quote for Meditation: *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good;”*  
-1 Thessalonians 5:16–21

## **GREETING and PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Chris Scrivens

## **PRELUDE**

**“Lo, How a Rose”**  
Bell Choir

*arr. by Cathy Moglebust*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:**

Based upon Psalms 96, 80, 85, 97, & 126

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.

**All: *The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us; God’s face will shine, and we will be saved.  
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.***

One: When the Lord restores our lives,  
we will be like those who dream;  
those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

**All: *We will sing of God’s steadfast love forever;  
we will proclaim the faithfulness of the Lord to all generations.***

One: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.  
Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God’s holy name.

### **Sung response:**

**“While We Are Waiting”**

Cantor Matt Petrozelli

*“While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.  
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.  
“Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.”*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Who are we, Lord God,  
that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people  
and redeemed us in your Son.

**All:** *As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,  
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**OPENING HYMN:** "Before the Marvel of this Night"

Cantor Matt Petrozelli

**Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow;  
then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
sing peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace!**

**Awake the sleeping world with song: this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:  
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss!**

**The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
In to one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
sing love; sing love; sing God is love; sing love; sing God is love!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

*O Lord our God,  
you know us better than we know ourselves.  
As we come before you now,  
believers and doubters alike,  
we all share a deep need,  
for we are all lost without your grace.  
Search us, O God, and know our hearts,  
test us and know our troubled thoughts.  
Give us true repentance.  
Forgive us all our wrongs.  
Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day,  
to learn to serve each other  
and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to come at last to heaven. Amen.*

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Sung response:**

Cantor Matt Petrozelli

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

**Psalms:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

### Response:

**One:** This is the Word of God.

**All:** *Thanks be to God!*

### SERMON:

**“Impossible Gifts”**

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### MUSICAL INTERLUDE:

**“Silent Night”**

### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

### PASTORAL PRAYER 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.*

## FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

**“Little Town of Bethlehem”**

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### **Participating in today’s Worship and Fellowship are . . .**

**Pastor:** Rev. Christopher W. Scrivens  
**Director of Family Ministries:** Deacon Melissa Ash  
**Music Director:** Matt Petrozelli  
**Organist:** Mary Elizabeth Rawley

*Welcome to our virtual Worship service.*

Scripture readings for Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; *Psalm 96*; Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Scripture readings for Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12);  
John 1:1-14

Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 27: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 *and Psalm 148*;  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:21-40



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