

First Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 19, 2021

*Those who are able may stand

PREWORSHIP FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE MUSIC

Bells of Praise



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

INVITATION TO SILENCE

(Silence is often a rare experience in our daily lives.

In lives that are so busy and pressured to do the next thing, it can feel wrong to just "be". But this is exactly where God's grace begins. At the realization that we are enough, just as we are. Therefore, to begin worship, you are invited to do just that.

As the bell rings and fades away, imagine all of the pressures and demands you have been holding fading with it. The freedom to just "be" is where we will begin our worship together.)

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION....."Chosen Home"

Insert

*OPENING SENTENCES (Responsive)

We are seeking –

Deeper faith,

A place to belong,

The feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking –

Joy that overflows,

The movement of the Spirit

A hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking –

The freedom to be,

The courage to love,

The conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space,

We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

God is here. We are found. Amen.



*GATHERING HYMN #121....."O Little Town of Bethlehem"

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

A: God's love is like an open door.

B: God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

A: God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

B: God's love is a table with room for you.

A: God's love is a crackling fireplace.

B: God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

A: God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

B: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

A: God's love is a home for all.

B: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

A: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

B: Amen.

KYRIE

(Please join us in the "Kyrie", an ancient song that mirrors the words people used to cry out to Jesus for healing in the scriptures. In Greek they mean, "Lord, have mercy". The church has sung these words for thousands of years as prayer and to prepare our hearts for confession.)

Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)

Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy)

Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)

Kyrie Eleison

Christe Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

CONFESSION OF NEED (Responsive)

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help.

She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed.

Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy.

How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them?

Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

KYRIE

*Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)
Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy)
Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)*

Kyrie Eleison
Christe Eleison
Kyrie Eleison

SILENCE FOR CONFESSION AND RESTING IN GOD’S GRACE

DECLARATION OF GRACE (Responsive)

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God’s love.

Rest in this promise:

If we get lost, **we will be found.**
If we mess up, **we are forgiven.**
If we withhold love, **God is lavish in loving us.**
We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

RESPONSE HYMN #100“My Soul Cries Out”*
vs. 1 & 4

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And Also, with you!**
Let us share a sign of God’s peace with one another.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Holy God,
We come to your Scripture today
Hoping that it will feel a bit like an open door,
Like Elizabeth welcoming Mary,
like coming home.
We want to fall into it.
We want to find sanctuary here.
We want to breathe easier just hearing these words. And we want
to find ourselves laughing because this good news is just too good
to keep inside. So hover close to us now, we pray. Open the door
to our hearts so that we might find sanctuary in your words.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

KYRIE

*Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)
Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy)
Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)*

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SCRIPTURE

FIRST READINGMicah 5:2-5 (pg 966)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING.....Luke 1:39-45 (pg 58)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON

Rev. Greg Isaacson

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

***HYMN OF THE DAY #119**.....*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your Mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (forgive us our “sins”)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE (Responsive)**

Beloved children of God receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the blessing of the Lord forever.

Alleluia! Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #123**.....*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

***DISMISSAL (Responsive)**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***POSTLUDE**



Please continue to be in prayer for:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Kaylee Acevedo & Family | JoAnn Westburg |
| Alex Gullingsrud & Family | Brent Blake |
| Curt Hoppe | Randy Beattie |
| Duane & Betty Finkenbinder | Richard Gould |
| Scott Brolsma | |

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A Warm Welcome to our Guests and Visitors!

Our church has a wonderful array of ministries that seek to spread the gospel into the world. If you are interested in finding out more about the church community or are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at:

Pastor – Rev. Michael Ozaki

Cell: 951.532.5105

PastorOzaki@gmail.com

Office: 218-281-4853 e-mail: crxpres@midconetwork.com

Check out our Website: crookstonfirstpres.org

Calendar for this week:

Sunday, December 19

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

Preaching..... Rev. Greg Isaacson

Ushers & Greeters..... Bill & Gloria Watro

Pianist..... Ruth Sanders

Music Director..... Sandy Perkins

Reader..... Marsha Odom

5 pm Follow the Star! Drive Thru Nativity

Wednesday, December 22

12 pm Advent Prayer Group

Friday, December 24

7 pm Christmas Eve Service

Next Sunday, December 26

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

Preaching..... Rev. Mike Ozaki

Ushers & Greeters..... Wally H. / Dale C.

Pianist.....

Music Director..... Sandy Perkins

Reader..... Sandy Perkins