

# First Presbyterian Church

3rd Sunday of Advent      Sunday, December 12, 2021

\*Those who are able may stand

PREWORSHIP FELLOWSHIP  
PRELUDE MUSIC  
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.....**“A Home For All”**  
*Insert*

**\*OPENING SENTENCES (Responsive)**

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

**It sings of a home for all.**

**It speaks of justice and peace.**

We could choose to ignore it.

**We could drown out that song.**

**We could choose not to listen.**

Instead, we come into this space.

**We let the world grow quiet.**

**We listen.**

A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

**We hear it. In listening, we worship.** Let us draw near to God.



**\*GATHERING HYMN #134.....**“Joy to the World”****

## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

A: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

B: Joy is hearing, “Come on over, it has been too long!”

A: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

B: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

A: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

B: Joy is the energy of a new season.

A: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

B: So today we light the candle of joy because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

A: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

B: Family of faith, we are close to home. 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 (Unison)

**Expansive God,**

**We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for *all*, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.**

## KYRIE

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**Kyrie Eleison**

## SILENCE FOR CONFESSION AND RESTING IN GOD'S GRACE

### DECLARATION OF GRACE (Responsive)

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up – when we lose our way or forget our call – we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does.

So rest in this good news:

**We are at home with God – forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

\*RESPONSE HYMN #106 ..... "Prepare the Way"  
vs. 1 & 2

### \*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)

**God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside,  
if you are my home,  
then your word is the streetlight guiding me there.  
So I want you to know—  
I am walking your way, we are walking your way,  
and we are looking for a light.  
And our feet are dirty—we've lost our way a time or two.  
And our bags are heavy—  
we're carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs.  
But we're on our way.  
We're looking for your light.  
We're listening for your word.  
When you see us coming,  
when you feel our hearts move,  
we hope you'll run down the driveway and catch us.  
Leave the light on.  
We are on our way home.  
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

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**SCRIPTURE**

**FIRST READING** .....Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pg 981)

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

**SECOND READING**.....Luke 3:7-18 (pg 61)

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

**SERMON** Home for All? *Rev. Michael Ozaki*

**SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #749**.....*"Come! Live in the Light!"*

**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 #360**.....*"Christ Is Coming!"*

vs. 1 & 3

**\*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](mailto:crxpres@midconetwork.com)

Check out our Website: [crookstonfirstpres.org](http://crookstonfirstpres.org)

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### **Calendar for this week:**

#### **Sunday, December 12**

10:30 am      Worship

11:30 am      Coffee Fellowship

Preaching.....      **Rev. Michael Ozaki**

Ushers & Greeters.....      Wayne & Lori Folkers

Organist.....      Hannah Krueger

Music Director.....      Sandy Perkins

Reader.....      Lynne Mullins

7 pm                      Christmas Concert

#### **Tuesday, December 14**

5 pm                      PW Christmas Party

#### **Wednesday, December 15**

12 pm                      Advent Prayer Group

5 pm                      Bell Rehearsal

7:30 pm                      Session Meeting

#### **Next 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