

Welcome to Worship



December 17th, 2023

***Those who are able may stand**

PREWORSHIP FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

BELLS OF PRAISE

Christmas Suite

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

R: In the midst of cold days and long nights,

C: God offers joy.

R: As we miss holiday traditions that are not possible this year,

C: God still offers joy.

R: Though we wonder what the future holds,

C: God continues to offer joy.

R: Even as we face illness and grief,

C: God's joy abides.

P: Holy God of Joy, Amidst the relentless cheer of this season—the trees and the twinkles and

the music and the gifts—we open ourselves to receive your joy. Thank you for each smile, each

laugh, each moment of warmth, each flicker of light.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

#314

Longing For Light (V1&2)

KYRIE

(Confession need not be a somber affair. It can be a joyful and thankful relief. Like dropping a heavy load from tired arms. God's grace means confession can sound as much like "hallelujah" as "I'm sorry". For this reason, we begin and end our "Confession" with a joyful song. Express how our confessing is also our act of love for the God who already covers it in grace.)

I Love You Lord And I Lift My Voice To Worship You Oh My Soul, Rejoice...

CONFESSION OF NEED (Responsive)

God of Joy, we know that to open our hearts is to risk being vulnerable, but throughout the scriptures and our lives we have learned that you are merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. So, we risk our confession to you. The honesty of our hearts.

**O Lord, you are our shepherd, And yet we want.
We lie down when we could act, We stir the pot when we could offer peace,
We wander tempting paths instead of following you.
We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you.
We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them,
We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.**

We confess our need for you. Your goodness and mercy,
So that we can live as if grace was real. Help us to repent and make us whole. Amen.

KYRIE

Take Joy My King In What You Hear May it be a sweet, sweet song In Your Ear.

SILENCE for confession and resting In God's grace.

DECLARATION OF GRACE (Responsive)

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and in this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

***RESPONSE HYMN**

#100

My Soul Cries Out (V1&4)

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Responsive)**

NORTHERN LIGHTS CHOR

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Holy Spirit, help us hear your voice beyond our inability to hear and understand your word beyond any speaker's ability to explain. Through your word, speak to our hearts even if our heads are not ready to listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1.....Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
READING 2.....John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

SERMON.....Learning To See Light Again

Silence for Contemplation

HYMN OF THE DAY #119 Hark The Harold Angels Sing (V 1& 2)

PRAYERS & GIFTS 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 #134 Joy To The World (v. 1 & 4)**

***DISMISSAL (Responsive)**

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

***POSTLUDE**

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: www.crookstonfirstpres.org

Sunday, December 17th

10:45 am **Worship**
11:45 am **Coffee Fellowship**

Ushers & Greeters..... Bill & Gloria Watro
Organist..... Caleb Mendez
Music Director..... Sandy Perkins
Reader..... Marsha Odem

Wednesday 20th

12:00 Pause for Peace
6:00 Bell Practice

Thursday 21st

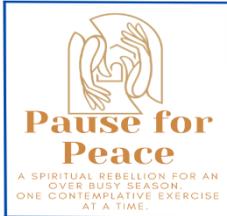
1:00pm Book Study

Next Sunday, December 24th

7pm.....Candlelight Service

Ushers & Greeters..... Wally Hoselton & Dale Charais
Organist..... George French
Music Director..... Sandy Perkins
Reader..... Sandy Perkins

Special Announcements



Pause for Peace

Wednesdays In Advent @ 12:00 – 12:45pm

Gathering in a trusted circle with simple questions and a bit of ritual, “Pause for Peace” trusts that when we share and listen to each other’s stories we hear God in new ways.

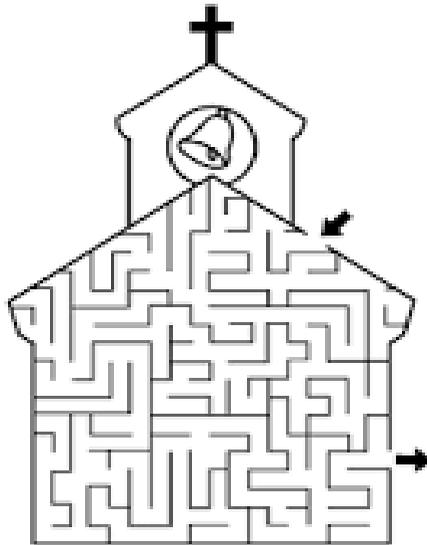
Designed to be an easy and intuitive process that anyone can jump into comfortably, “Pause for Peace” invites you to take a break from the rush of the season to breathe deeply, share honestly, listen openly and perhaps experience the “Peace of God that surpasses all understanding” together. No preparation or registration required.

Questions? Contact pastorozaki@gmail.com or (951) 532-5105



Worship Notes & Holy Doodles

Church Maze



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Angel Maze



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