**A group of candles

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**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday In Advent**

***HOPE***

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Musical Introit - #109** "All the earth is waiting to see the Promised One" vs 1-3

1 All earth is waiting

to see the Promised One,

and open furrows await the seed of God.

All the world, bound and struggling,

seeks true liberty;

it cries out for justice

and searches for the truth.

2 Thus says the prophet

to those of Israel:

A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,

one whose name is God-with-us:

our Saviour shall be;

with him hope will blossom

once more within our hearts.

3 Mountains and valleys

will have to be made plain;

open new highways,

new highways for our Lord.

He is now coming closer,

so come all to see,

and open the doorways

as wide as wide can be.

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #307 –** “God of the sparrow” vs 1,2,5,6

1 God of the sparrow

God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

2 God of the earthquake

God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature say Woe

How does the creature say Save

5 God of the neighbour

God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How doe the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages

God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Lord’s Prayer**

# Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

# Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in 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.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle: HOPE**

Reader 1: We are people of hope.

Reader 2: God longs for a day when weapons will be replaced with tools for rebuilding.

**People: We see your goodness and signs of new life all around us.**

Reader 1: The first candle of Advent reminds us that we are called to live as people of hope.

Reader 2: We light this candle to remind us to see God’s hope shining in our world.

***(Light the candle of hope)***

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**People: Holy One, help us to walk in the light of God. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of hope in our community. Amen.**

**Hymn: #119** “Hope is A Star” vs. 1

1 HOPE is a star that shines in the night,

leading us on till the morning is bright

Chorus: When God is a child

There’s joy in our song.

The last shall be first

and the weak shall be strong,

and none shall be afraid.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Epistle Lesson:   Romans 13:11-14

**Gloria Patri**

# Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Gospel Reading:  Matthew 24:36-44

**Anthem –** Janice Alcorn - “Breath of Heaven” by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton

**Sermon:** *“HOPE!”*

**Reaffirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed – Please rise**

# I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn: #124 -** “People in darkness”

1 People in darkness are looking for light.

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People with blindness are longing for sight,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of LOVE.

2 People with sickness are praying for health,

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People in poverty want to have wealth,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of HOPE.

3 People in trouble would like to be free,

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

People with arguments want to agree,

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of PEACE.

4 People in sadness are trying to sing.

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of JOY.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn: #784** - “Thy Kingdom come – on bended knee” vs 1,3-5

1 Thy kingdom come! On bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.

3 And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear;  
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:

5 When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad:  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.

**Benediction**

**Coral Response: Threefold Amen**

**Recessional**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you experience the love of God and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve one another.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Today** - There will be a short meeting of the Circle of Friends group after church today to finalize details for the Soup and Dessert lunch.

The annual Christmas Memory Tree fundraiser is taking place again this year. The forms are available inside the sanctuary. **Deadline for requests will be December 11th.** If you would like to donate a ball(s), fill out the form and leave it, along with your donation, in the collection baskets. (To lessen the chance of missing a name(s), please limit your requests to 5 per form.) The names of those remembered and the donors will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

We are participating in the “Tree of Kindness” project again this year. Due to your generosity last year, we will fill 3 baskets this year. The baskets will be delivered to the Dept. of Community Services Dec. 19th to distribute to single, disabled, Income Assistance clients. Please take a tag(s) from the tree, purchase then place in the baskets under the tree. The gifts will be gathered during the 4 Sundays of Advent. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Fullerton 902 -754-2142.

**Suggested items for the baskets:**

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| **Personal Hygiene:**  Towels (bath, hand towels, facecloths)  Toothbrush  Toothpaste  Deodorant  Razors  Shave lotion  Shampoo  Hand soap; Body wash  Kleenex  Toilet tissue | **Household:**  Dish cloths; tea towels  Dish soap  Disinfecting wipes  Manual can opener  Paper towel  Laundry soap  **Useful items:**  Pens  Pocket calendars | **Treats:**  Hot chocolate  Boxes of chocolates  Candy  Cookies  **Warm items:**  Hats  Socks  Gloves |

**Today – 3:00 p.m.**, First Day of Advent - Trinity United Church, Temperance St., New Glasgow, is hosting a concert by The Trinitarians and Friends “Remembering December! Songs of the Season – Joy for the Whole Family”. Donation at the door.

**Today - 7pm**. - First Presbyterian Church, Pictou, will hold its Annual Celebration of Light and Life service this evening, the first Sunday of Advent. Everyone is welcome!

**Fri. Dec. 2nd – Reminder -** the Circle of Friends take-out Soup and Dessert lunch will be available for **pick up at the MacLean Street entrance between 11 am and 1 pm.**

**Dec. 4th, from 2:00-4:00** - Christmas Tea and Sale – St. John the Baptist Catholic Women’s League, High St., New Glasgow, is hosting a sit-down tea and sale, including large bake sale, raffles and craft tables featuring local artisans. Admission is $5 each, $2 for children.

**Dec. 23rd – 7:00 p.m.** – The Worship and Music team presents “Handel’s Messiah” by Musique Royale with Baroque singers and orchestra. More details to be announced shortly.

**Message from The Board of Managers**

Our Christmas trees are getting old so we are considering replacing the 3 artificial Christmas trees used to decorate the church.  If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of new trees, it would be appreciated.  If so, you can include it in your weekly envelope, send via etransfer, drop off at the church office, or leave in the mail slot at the main entrance. Thank you for your consideration.

**VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader today**: Jennifer Thibeau

**Lighting the Candle**: Fran and Justin Savage

**Usher**: Jackie and Gary Ross

**Early Christian Educators**: Lynne Ann and Lois MacLellan

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** – We will be needing people/families to light the Advent Candle throughout the Christmas season. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Andrew or the office.