

# MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Chiang

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Duty Elder: Bill Lundie

Service Leader: Connie Madsen

Musician: Sheryl Cale, Rosemary Brown

Scripture Reader: Pat Nilsson

\*When this symbol appears please stand if you are able

**Musical Prelude** – Time for Quiet Meditation

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME:** *Video*

\***HYMN # 159:** *O come all ye faithful (1,4,5)*

## ADVENT CANDLE

**Voice 1:** The prophets call and the psalmist sings to announce that hope comes from God.

**Voice 2:** “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.”

“We shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”

**Voice 1:** The world cries for justice and transformation. Advent summons us to watch, to wait and to hope. In the destruction of the current order is the promise of a new order beyond our imagination. Signs of hope are all around us if we have the patience to wait and to see them.

**Voice 2:** Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

**All:** Jesus Christ comes as the hope of the world.

**Voice 2:** We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**All:** We light this candle to bear witness to hope.

**ANTHEM:** *Come, child of light*

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

**SCRIPTURE 1:** Luke 1:26-33 (pg 56)

\***HYMN # 153:** *Joy to the world (1,2,4)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Redeeming God,

We confess that waiting is difficult when the world around us is on edge.

We are impatient with each other, waiting for someone to make a difference.

We are impatient with you, O God, waiting for a sign that things will improve.

Forgive us, O God.

Turn our hearts to you again and again, and show us how to act in hope for Jesus 'sake. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE 2:** Luke 2: 1-5

\***HYMN # 165:** *O little town of Bethlehem (1,3,4)*

**SCRIPTURE 3:** Luke 2: 6-7

\***HYMN # 149:** *Away in the manger*

**SCRIPTURE 4:** Luke 2: 8-14

\***HYMN # 139:** *Hark the herald angels sing*

**MEDITATION:** *Video*

## WE GIVE TO GOD'S WORK

\***PRAISE RESPONSE #830:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SCRIPTURE 5:** Luke 2: 15-18

\***HYMN #161:** What child is this?

*As God's People: Living with faith, loving without limits*

Email: [memorialpresbyterian2019@gmail.com](mailto:memorialpresbyterian2019@gmail.com)

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**\*PRAYER FOR OURSELVES & OTHERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE 6:** Luke 2: 19-20

**\* HYMN # 133:** *Go tell it on the mountain*

**\*Commissioning and BENEDICTION:** *Video*

**\*SUNG BENEDICTION:** *Go now in Peace*

**Birthday greetings** this week go out to Charlie Tru

**Christmas Service:** December 24 @ 7 PM. There will be no regular Sunday service on December 24 or on Christmas Day.

**Finance Update:** As of November 30, the bank balance is \$25,117.16. Thanks to all for your financial support! This allows moving forward with carpet repairs, boiler repairs, and a monitor for the choir.

First Sunday in Advent

HOPE

**Voice 1:** The prophets call and the psalmist sings to announce that hope comes from God.

**Voice 2:** "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence." (Isaiah 64) "We shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (Psalm 27)

**Voice 1:** The world cries for justice and transformation. Advent summons us to watch, to wait and to hope. In the destruction of the current order is the promise of a new order beyond our imagination. Signs of hope are all around us if we have the patience to wait and to see them.

**Voice 2:** Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

**All: Jesus Christ comes as the hope of the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**All: We light this candle to bear witness to hope. (while lighting the candle of hope)**

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## **Journeying for Hope**

“What an excellent experience to be together raising both awareness and funds for PWS&D. Can’t wait until next year!” shared Laura Kavanagh, team leader of Together in Motion based in Victoria, BC, after PWS&D’s first ever Journey for Hope.

Journey for Hope brings together people from across Canada in support of PWS&D food security programs. The climate crisis, conflict and ever-increasing costs are exacerbating an already urgent food crisis. PWS&D and our partners assist marginalized communities to address hunger and food insecurity.

Food security projects provide hope to families and communities. Amalia, an Indigenous woman in Guatemala, shares how her life has changed. “Before, our situation was poverty and violence, but this project is good for the community and Maya Mam women. I hope other families and communities see my life as an example.”

Journey for Hope is crucial in supporting this essential work. In just two years, over \$50,000 has been raised across the country. We hope you’ll join us next time!

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to show our faith and bring hope to those in need.**

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