

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Chiang

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas December 24, 2023

Duty Elder: Shirley Tessmer Service Leader: Marj Brown
Musician: Sheryl Cale, Rosemary Brown
Scripture Reader: Patti Hofforth

*When this symbol appears please stand if you are able

Musical Prelude – Time for Quiet Meditation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: *Video*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (see insert)

***HYMN #119:** *Hope is a Star*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

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

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1: 26-38 (pg 56)

REFLECTION: *Video*

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth,
In Christ you offer us the gift of yourself,
but we are attracted to presents under the tree.
You came to us in flesh and blood,
but we fail to see you in the humans right beside us.
You shine in the world,
but we dwell on the darkness in the daily news.
Forgive us.**

**Renew our hope and our trust in you
as you reach out to us from the manger.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1: 18-25 (pg 1)

REFLECTION: *Video*

***HYMN # 166:** *Once is royal David's city (1,2,4)*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (See insert)

HYMN #143: *Infant Holy Infant Lowly*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 8-16 (pg 58)

REFLECTION: *Video*

***HYMN # 147:** *Angels we have heard on high (1,4)*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2: 1-12 (pg 2)

REFLECTION: *Video*

HYMN # 173: *We three kings (1,5)*

WE GIVE TO GOD'S WORK

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-7 (pg 58)

REFLECTION: *Video*

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

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HYMN # 161: *What child is this? (1,2,3)*

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

SHARING THE LIGHT (*Candle Song as we gather around sanctuary*)

*** HYMN #154:** *Silent Night (1,2,3)*

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

*** Song:** *We wish you a Merry Christmas*

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

Love

Voice 1: The prophets call and psalmists sing to announce that God is love.

Voice 2: “For the mountain may depart and the hills may be moved, but my steadfast love shall never depart from you...and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you.” (Isaiah 54)

“Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 136)

Voice 1: From the mystery of God’s love came our creation and we are nurtured daily by it. The power of God’s love is transformative; because we have received God’s love, we cannot remain the same. Love means seeking the best for others. Love is compassion for all creation. Love speaks the truth with kindness. Love is the way of seeing others as God sees them.

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

All: Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the world.

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

All: We light this candle to burn for joy.
(while lighting the candle of joy)

Puskar’s Journey to Health

In Nepal, 10-year-old Puskar Bhandari lives with his family. Puskar had wounds on his body which his family initially ignored. However, as the wounds spread, his grandfather took him to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with leprosy.

Puskar was later referred to Shining Hospital for treatment. He was provided with medication and treatment, and his grandfather received information about his grandson’s condition. Unfortunately, after some time home with the new medicines, Puskar experienced a reaction and had to be readmitted to the hospital.

After his condition stabilized, he was discharged and now only visits the hospital for routine check-ups. Despite his health condition, Puskar aspires to continue his studies and to become a good cricket player.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to love our neighbours. PWS&D and our partners show this love by working to provide healthy futures for all.

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THE CHRIST CANDLE

Voice 1: The angels sing the glory of God in the highest heavens.

Voice 2: “Be not afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy for all people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord... you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!” (Luke 2)

Voice 1: At Christmas, God speaks in signs. The baby in the manger is a sign of a new life and new governance shining in the world. Christ is born and the world is filled with the promise of hope, signs of peace, joy and the incarnation of God’s love.

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

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Voice 2: We join with all creation in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle because God has been made flesh and dwells among us. (while lighting the Christ Candle)

Rejoice! Christ is born!

Hope is not lost even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster. The church, through PWS&D, responds to God’s call to reach out to those in need. Together with our partners, we are making a positive impact in our global community, helping those affected by disasters and providing a sustainable way out of poverty.

Encouraged by God’s promise of abundant life, we are addressing hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster. Our efforts are focused on caring for the poor, sick and vulnerable. Through our collaborative efforts, we aim to restore human dignity, alleviate suffering and promote community cooperation.

As a reflection of Christ’s hope, peace, joy and love, we are striving toward a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember our brothers and sisters across the globe. Your support is crucial to the success of this transformative work.

This Christmas, help to bring hope, peace, joy and love around the world, please support PWS&D.

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