

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

One: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
That God is always coming into the world.

All: **We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

One: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

All: **We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.
We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.
We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

***HYMN #38 (PH)** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

POSTLUDE "The Holly And The Ivy"

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Preacher: Rev. Scott Thompson
Liturgist: Rev. Leanne Thompson
Pianist: Jill Boeyink
Sound Tech: Terry Woitaszewski
Nursery Supervisor: Erica Boeyink
Valet Parking: Gary Manzer
Ushers & Greeters: Bob and Diann Anderson
Counters: Doug and Sharon Bakker
Coffee Fellowship: Scott and Jill Boeyink

**First Presbyterian Church
Willmar, MN
December 24, 2017**



4th Sunday in Advent

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

**Please rise as you are able.*

*Please join in speaking **bolded** text.*

PRELUDE "The First Noel"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY – The Candle of Love

Lighting of the Candle

Advent Response: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Verse 1 (PH #9)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

Advent Prayer

***HYMN #22 (PH)** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy One, on this fourth Sunday of Advent we remember the Word made flesh, the incarnation, God and humanity joined as one.

All: We do not claim to understand this mystery, be we do accept it, we believe that Jesus was not just made in your image, but that he revealed you to us more than any other human before or since.

One: Lord, we are your humble creations, sons and daughters gathered in this place to offer you our worship and praise, but more than that we come to offer our very selves, all that we are, all that you have made us to be. Like Jesus, we are fully human, and we seek to be more like him, to be more open to you and to be filled with your Holy Spirit, that we might follow in your way.

All: Lord, we are sorry that we have not always acted like your sons and daughters; we have been selfish and strayed from the path.

One: Lord, we are sorry that we have not always been beacons of light in a world of darkness. Forgive us.

All: Lord, restore us into full relationship as your sons and daughters. May we know and accept your forgiveness that is so freely offered and help us to be all that we can be, all that we were created to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***GLORIA PATRI #577 (PH)**

THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN #31 (PH) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 1 & John 1

MESSAGE "Word of Welcome"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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.

PRESENTING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING "What Child Is This"

***DOXOLOGY #592 (PH)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**