

*Join us for our Christmas Cantata  
December 10 at the 10:30 a.m. service*

First Presbyterian Church  
Winnebago, Illinois  
December 3, 2017  
10:30 a.m.

---

Liturgical color is purple for the season of penitence and preparation

**PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

Prelude

Introit "Come, Come Emmanuel"

Welcome/Announcements

Call To Worship: from Psalm 98 **Unison Reading**  
"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. ... all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; ... shout for joy before the LORD, the King." This morning I sing with joy and praise the Lord with gladness. Amen and Amen.

\*Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" #23

Lighting of the Advent Candle Emma Storey, Jason Luna

\*Hymn "Advent Song" (v.1) insert

Call to Confession: from Psalm 19 **Unison Reading**  
Loving Creator, we honor you with our praise because we know that you are pure and holy. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (continued)

**Announcements**

Our Church Website: <http://www.thewfpc.org>

All groups meet at the church unless otherwise specified.

**Pastor Carroll** is in the office on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. His email is: [pastor1@thewfpc.org](mailto:pastor1@thewfpc.org)

**Session** Will meet on Monday at 7 p.m.

**Chancel Choir** will meet on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Rockford Rescue Mission** Our night to serve is this Friday starting at 6 p.m. If you are interested call the office.

**Adopt-A-Child** items are due no later than December 10.

**Workcampers** are selling \$10 Anna's Bucks again this year. Please see Jacob Smith, Logan Gray, or Barb Whitney. They make great stocking stuffers! Is God calling you to serve? We have one definite workcamp spot available for a camper. There are also limited additional spots. Please contact Barb Whitney 815-335-1048.

**Goods Drive: The Jr. High Sunday school class is sponsoring a** holiday canned goods and paper products (toilet paper, Kleenex) drive to support the Rockford Rescue Mission. Please drop off items in the boxes/baskets provided by December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for supporting our youth in their desire to help others.

**Looking ahead...**

December 10 - Cantata performance, fellowship

December 17 - Children's Christmas program

December 24 - 10: 30 a.m. Regular worship service

December 24 - 10: 30 p.m. Candle light worship service

**Unison:** We partake of the bread and cup with hearts filled with gratitude because Jesus loves us exceedingly and has made us worthy through the brokenness of His body and the shedding of His Blood. We ask that our celebration of Holy Communion at the Lord's Table will give glory and honor to Christ and His Church as we demonstrate His wondrous love, mercy, and grace.

Blessing of the Bread and Cup

Receiving of the Holy Communion

Prayer after Communion: Unison Prayer  
**Gracious Lord, thank you for making us worthy to dine at the Lord's Table through your love, mercy, and grace. Your holy sacrifice has allowed us to share in Holy Communion with all of God's children. Please continue to bless us so that we are steadfast in our daily walk with you. In your holy name we pray, Amen.**

\*Hymn "He Came Down" insert

Benediction Unison Prayer  
**This morning we have lifted up our voices and hearts to give praise to our wondrous Savior because He has given us His love and grace. May our loving Lord enable us to share the hope of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen, Amen.**

Postlude

All music in our bulletin is protected under CCLI#1409680

THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

2090

**Advent Song**  
 (Light the Advent Candle)



1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the  
 2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two: Think of  
 3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, three: Think of  
 4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of  
 5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles, now: Sing of

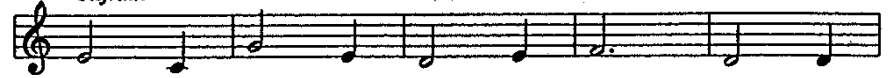


wait - ing has be - gun; we have start - ed  
 hum - ble shep - herds, who filled with won - der  
 heav - en - ly har - mo - ny; an - gels sing - ing  
 joy for - ev - er - more; Christ Child in a  
 don - key, sheep, and cow; birth - day can - dles



on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.  
 at the sight of the child of Christ - mas night.  
 "Peace on earth" at the bless - ed Sav - ior's birth.  
 sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.  
 for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.

*Refrain*



Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing



in the cold win - ter night; can - dle, can - dle,



burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

WORDS: Mary Lu Walker (Luke 2:1-20)  
 MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker  
 ©1975 Mary Lu Walker

ADVENT CANDLE SONG  
 77.77 with Refrain

(Continued)

Please forgive me of my wrongdoings and cleanse me of my sin so that I will be holy in your sight. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Unison Reading  
**Merciful and gracious God, I have humbly approached you with praise and adoration. I have obeyed your holy word and confessed my faults and failures with sincerity. By faith in you and your grace, I am forgiven and pardoned from my sins. In Jesus name, Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri #579

Apostles Creed pg. 14

Anthem "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Mark Brymer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Unison Prayer concluding with The Lord's Prayer  
**Gracious Savior, we appreciate this time that we can share our joys and concerns. You have heard our joys for which we have given thanks and you have accepted our concerns because your word promises that our petitions are welcome. In faith we know that you are the answer and that your Holy Spirit will bring us love and healing. Your faithfulness is why we continuously pray as you taught your disciples to pray...**

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings

\*Doxology #592

\*Prayer of Dedication Unison prayer  
**Loving Creator, we are very grateful for another opportunity to worship you. We know that your blessings are always given to us with gracious love. With heartfelt thanks we present our gifts, tithes, and offerings. Please bless what we have given so that the good news of Christ will be shared liberally. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

\*Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" #41

Passing of the Peace

### RECEIVING THE WORD

Scripture: from Psalm 98 pg. 617

Message: "Advent Season Reveals the Greatest Gift"  
Dr. Carroll Smith

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Pastor: Gracious God, on this first Sunday of the Advent season, there is joy in our hearts because we are able to approach the Lord's Table and share in Holy Communion. Please accept our gratefulness as we celebrate our spiritual freedom and liberty in Christ with the church universal. We humbly accept your marvelous and wonderful invitation that is open to everyone who believes in Christ as Savior.

**People: We have been set free from the bondage of sin and are invited to dine at the Lord's Table with all of your people. This first Sunday of Advent season we celebrate Holy Communion with our hearts filled with great delight as we follow Christ's example and show the world that we proclaim Jesus as our redeemer.**

# He Came Down 137

He came down that we may have love; he  
 came down that we may have love; he came down that we may  
 have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

*Leader: Why did he come?*

*Additional stanzas:*

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

## ***Our Mission Statement***

To be a community of believers that love and follow God, love and support others, and offer Jesus Christ to the world.

Our vision statement is posted in the lower hallway.

Church number / Pastoral Cell      815-335-2051 / 815-742-7503  
 Attendance / Offerings                      87 / \$1990.00

## SHARING THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

*Every member a minister...*

Accompanist / Choir Director                      Michelle West  
 Projectionist    Renee Rittmeyer  
 Ushers    Jim Mitchell, Dave Nichols, Chuck Rittmeyer  
 Greeters    Terry & Christie Schweitz  
 Acolyte    Joe Erb

## **POINSETTIA SALE**

The Worship Committee is taking orders for poinsettias to add beauty to our sanctuary during the Christmas season. They will be on display December 10- 24 and may be taken home after the worship service on December 24 .

### **Orders due TODAY!**

Return completed form and payment to Susan Gambrel. If you have questions call Susan at 815-262-2646.

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s) @ \$17 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink

\_\_\_\_\_ Total - ***Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church***



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_