

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you. If you are visiting with us, please introduce yourself to the pastor following the service.

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Our Approach to God

Prelude *Away in a Manger* arr. Wagner

The Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle of Love

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God.

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

We celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby and we wait for Jesus to come again.

We light this candle of hope - the hope of our Savior, Jesus.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

We light this candle of peace – the peace that Jesus, our Savior, brings to the world.

He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We light this candle of joy – the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.

His coming is good news of great joy for all the people.

We light this candle of love – the love of God that came to us in Jesus, our Savior.

Hear God’s promise of love...God is faithful to his promises.

Thanks be to God! We praise God for the love that we have in Jesus, our Savior.

Let us pray... Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*The Hymn of Praise *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* 11

*The Call to Confession

At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus came to earth as a human baby. He was just like us, but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. Let us confess our sins and be forgiven.

*The Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you demonstrated your love for us by sending your only Son to be our Savior. Forgive us for failing to respond as we should. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love, but our refusal to forgive others. We confess our desire to be loved but our reluctance to love wholeheartedly and sacrificially. Come to us anew, and by your grace, remove those things that hinder our love for you and one another. [Silent Confession.] Lord, thank you for providing a way for our salvation. We desire to receive your love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that our lives would overflow with love for you and one another. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

The angel said that Mary would give birth to a son, who would be given the name Jesus, because he would save people from their sins. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we receive the forgiveness of sins. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Response *Angels We Have Heard on High*, chorus 23
Glo - - - ria, in excelsis Deo; Glor - - - ria, in excelsis Deo.

*The Passing of the Peace

The Anthem *Christmas Day in the Morning* Donnelly & Strid
Chancel Choir

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading *Matthew 1:18-25* page 2 NT

The New Testament Reading *1 John 4:7-12* page 327 NT

The Sermon Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical) hymnal page 15

*The Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 44

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory *Love Came Down at Christmas* Shaw

Duet, Peggy Knutson, and Deanna Patton

*The Doxology *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*, verse 4 22

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

*The Prayer of Dedication

*The Hymn *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* 29

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Congregational Response *Away in a Manger (verse 3)* 24

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

*Postlude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Smith

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist and Advent Candle Lighter: Elexia Ortiz and Sonia Hoepfner

Greeters: The Rousseau Family

Ushers: Pete & Ginny Brucker

Musical Talents: Laurel Taipale and the above-mentioned individuals and group.

Second Presbyterian Church

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Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 24, 2023



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
A D V E N T

Love

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Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.

For The Hearing Impaired

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

2023 End of Year Contributions



The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2023) to claim a deduction for 2023. Giving in 2024 and pre-dating a check for 2023 does not qualify for a 2023 deduction.



The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called The Annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, February 4, 2024 immediately following worship. Any business of the congregation or corporation can be conducted.

2024 Per Capita Apportionment



Per Capita is part of being a Presbyterian and connecting to the Presbyterian Church as a whole. It is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. The per capita for 2024 amount is \$29.50 per member (not per household). It goes to General Assembly, Synod of the Covenant and the Presbytery. If each member pays their Per Capita amount above their regular giving then pressure on our budget is reduced. Please mark Per Capita on your check or envelope. If you have not paid the Per Capita for 2023, you have until December 31st.

The office will be open Tuesday, December 26 – Thursday, December 28 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. As always, please call the office before driving to the church as unforeseen circumstances can occur.

*The office will be closed on Monday, December 25.



Poinsettias



In Honor of

Bob & Peggy Donaldson
Rev. Ruth Estell
Tom & Carol Poole

In Memory of

Rev. Ken Anderson
Jack & Lucy Specht
Philip Herter
Ann & Ellis Ivey
Alice & Reid Calcott Jr.
Our Parents
Anne & Hamilton Easton, Reynold Myers
Ray Shepherd
Alice & Frank Biggs
Lynne Nickle, William & Charlotte Nickle
Bill Estell
Ken Moran
Both of Our Children, Sharon, and Donnie Jr.
Marilyn & Steve Salak
Family
Rev. Robert Lakey
Our Parents

Given by

Dave & Denise Donaldson
A Grateful Congregation
Lis and Jack Visuri

Given by

Ruth Anderson
Fred & Genie Herter and Family
Fred & Genie Herter and Family
Reid Calcott
Reid Calcott
Pete & Ginny Brucker
Kitty Myers & Barbara Easton
His Family
Beverly Briggs
Cheryl Kelley
Ruth Estell
Pam Moran
Don & Sally Day
Kathy Salak
Betty Miller
Reid Calcott
Deanna & Mike Patton