

POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Topeka, Kansas

Sunday December 1, 2024

1st Sunday in Advent

Liturgical color: purple

PRELUDE

CHIMES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

Unison: For God's steadfast love endures forever, and this give us hope!

Let us praise God's Holy Name forever!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ "For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Reader 1: The promises of God are Promises of Hope. The Lord told the Prophet Jeremiah, "For surely I know the plans for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm. I want to give you a future full of hope."

Reader 2: O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of the meek, to those who fall, how kind you are! How good you are to those who seek you!

Today we light the candle of hope. (purple)

***OPENING HYMN:** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (#2 Blue Hymnal)

Praise, Prayers, and Petitions

SILENT PRAYERS OF PERSONAL CONFESSION:

CORPORATE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

O Surprising One,

We confess that we continually look for you in ordinary places: on the front of Christmas cards, in the plastic nativity scenes on our neighbors' lawns, in familiar carols, in this church we call home. We watch for the blanketed babe with the omniscient smile and heavenly glow. So sure are we of how you will appear to us that we miss your incarnation where we do not expect it. We have failed to see you enfleshed in our enemies. We have not recognized you in faces that did not look like ours. We confess that we have refused to acknowledge your incarnation in ourselves for fear that to have Christ in us would be too costly. Forgive our narrowness. Help us to watch. Teach us to recognize. Surprise us even today, in this hour, by breaking into the ordinariness of our worship and our lives so that we might see you anew. Help us to find our way home to you, for in you alone do we find salvation. Come Lord Jesus, Come.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: As God has forgiven us so let us forgive one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

Unison: And also with you!

Leader: Please share the love and peace of Christ with each other as you feel comfortable.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(pg 16 in the Hymnal, Traditional version)

***Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri) #577**

The Word:

PASTORAL PRAYER

Illumination (Sung x2)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 27

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 12:9-21

MESSAGE: "Live Into Hope"

Pastor Sue Ann Seel

MEDITATION ON THE MESSAGE:

Gwen Jones

Response to the Word

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY:

Gwen Jones

DOXOLOGY:

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” (#592 Blue Hymnal)

***OFFERING RESPONSE: Blessed be God forever.**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION:

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! This invitation by Christ is not made to one group or one individual, but this invitation is for all who believe that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior!

Unison: People will come from east and west, from north and south to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

Leader: Come now and join in fellowship with all the disciples and apostles and saints at the table of our Lord! Let us feast with all those who have been also adopted into the family of God.

UNISON PRAYER

O Lord our God,

You are great indeed, clothed in majesty and splendor, wrapped in light and love. In Jesus Christ you reveal to us your glory. We praise you for this glimpse of the mystery of our redemption. For you so loved the world that you sent us your Son, Jesus Christ, so that through his body and his blood we might be brought home to you. We thank you Lord, for feeding us and nurturing us through your Son and by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is right for us to give you thanks and praise.

Leader: Almighty Father, Creator and Sustainer of Life, Your majesty and power, your continued blessings of grace and your great goodness fill us with wonder. We are unworthy of the pardon you have in mercy given us. We can bring only our thanks, putting our trust in your Son, who alone saves us from evil. Therefore, in joy let us lift our hearts and minds on high where, with Christ your only Son and with the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours now and forever! Let us now join together to say the mystery of our faith:

Unison: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION
SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

COMMUNION PRAYER (ALL)

Gracious God,

We give you thanks for the hope of Christ that brings us joyfully to your table. Teach us to praise your name with one voice as we wait for Christ's return. Make us heralds of your peace, proclaiming with gladness: Every valley shall be lifted up and every hill shall be made low in the name of Christ! Let us be your light in this world! Thanks be to God, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Live Into Hope" (#332 Blue Hymnal)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me

Let there be peace on earth

The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father

Siblings all are we

Let us walk with each other

In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me

Let this be the moment now

With every step I take

Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment and live

Each moment in peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me