



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

December 2, 2020

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

This Weekend's Worship – Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Scripture Readings: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8

Advent Story: "Broken Windows" by Kathrine Patterson

Prepare your worship area with a light source to be lit when we light the Advent candle and elements for communion.

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

God of Peace, You sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness that all may see your reign of peace through your justice and grace. Amen.

Pastor's Ponderings - Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

This weekend during our worship service we will be continuing our practice of entering Advent through scripture and story. As the lectionary study group discussed our scripture verses and the theme of peace, we found ourselves questioning our understandings of peace and the places from which peace is derived for us. Of course, we know that God is ultimately the source of our peace, but do we try to find peace in ways that don't align with what we know of God's character? Are there times when our peace (or perhaps better understood as our peace of mind) wields a negative impact on others? Could such peace be understood as true peace? Is it God's peace?

What particularly struck me is verse 10 of Psalm 85 as it describes what it looks like when faithful people turn to God; "...righteousness and peace will embrace each other." I wondered what might be unusual about righteousness and peace occupying the same space. There is no lack of examples of one person's or group's understanding of righteousness (or perhaps better understood as self-righteousness) leading not to peace and wholeness but to conflict and inequity. A cursory look at the U.S. prison

system reveals that human sourced "justice" quickly corrupts rather than heals. An honest look at treatment of indigenous peoples exposes oppression that granted peace of mind to white folk who thought themselves to be more righteous. The effects of which continue to cripple communities in horrific ways. If we look more deeply into the reason we can get such great "Black Friday" deals, we find neighbors who try to subsist on minimum wage with little to no healthcare coverage.

In this time of waiting during Advent we ask for the courage to see the ways we contribute to and benefit from a righteousness which doesn't lead to wholeness. And we look to God's inbreaking with a different kind of righteousness and a different kind of peace. One that dares to imagine righteousness and peace embracing, lions laying down with lambs, and an infant changing the world. Christ prepares the way for us. Will we choose to walk his path?

In the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Dec 4-Bonnie Bickett, 6-Ann Crawford, 7-Mark Mortenson, 9-Jane Seeley, 10-Walt DeKock, 11-Dick Goering

For your prayers...

Caryl Nielsen

Ellie Tompkins

Ken TeSlaa's brother, Al TeSlaa

Marlys Folkers' grandson Eli

Zoom Meetings

Wednesday, December 2

1:00 pm Personnel
6:15-7:00 pm Elementary age 'Shine' Zoom
7:00 pm Christmas Carol Zoom Event

Thursday, December 3

6:30 pm Esther Circle

Sunday, December 6

11:00 am (link below)

[Fellowship Hour.](#)

Tuesday, December 8

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Wed., December 9

6:15-7:00 pm Jr. High age 'Shine' Zoom

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Worship Leader: Jan Thedens

Vocals: Sarah Burke

Reduced Office Hours

The church office hours will be reduced until Lynette is able to return to the office. If you need to drop by, please try to do so between 9am and 1pm Monday – Friday. If you need access to the building at another time, email Pastor Julie at pastor@firstprescf.org.

Stewardship 2021

Thank you to all who have responded by mailing in an Estimate of Giving card for 2021. If you have not yet sent in a card, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Poinsettia Update

The Worship and Music Team decided not to sell poinsettias this year, due to the difficulty of COVID-19. If you wish to donate toward the purchase of liturgical decorations and paraments, you may do so. Make checks payable to the church with 'decorations' on the memo line.

Grants Awarded from Presbytery

The Community Ministries Team is happy to announce that we have been awarded three grants from the Mission Partnership program of the presbytery. They will be distributed to ministries we already enthusiastically support in our community.

They are as follows:

\$3,000 for Eye of the Needle

\$3,000 for HCC Family Literacy

\$1,500 for Threehouse College Ministry

Many thanks to Hope Goering, Brad Jensen, Sandy Jensen, and Jill Mortenson, who worked to write and present the grant applications. This is another way that Cedar Falls First continues to support our community even in the face of the pandemic. Well done good and faithful ones!

Presby Spottings!

Looking festive in flashing Christmas lights, Margaret Clark, fearless leader of Esther Circle, was at the church as Esther Circle members drove by for a holiday greeting and a goody bag!



Snapshot by Margaret Clark of holiday cheer! >



Congratulations to Cyd Grafft upon her retirement after 50 years of nursing.



Cyd Grafft with her daughter Saskia Jacobson.

Member Anniversaries

Dave & Sue Luck, 12/1/75: 45 yrs.

Roger Dean, 12/1/75: 45 yrs.

Mel Reimer, 12/7/50: 70 yrs.

Vi Polk, 12/7/55: 65 yrs.

Dave Lemons, 12/11/60: 60 yrs.

Mark & Jill Mortenson, 12/11/05: 15 yrs.

Pat Moore, 12/17/95: 25 yrs.

Our Lectionary Study

The lectionary study will be in the dining room. Our attendance must be 10 or fewer, therefore we request an accurate list of attendees. Please reserve a spot through this link, [Lectionary Study Sign Up](#). If you aren't able to use this link, please contact Pastor Julie and let her know of your plans to attend. We'd love to see you there!

Worship Leaders Needed

We are looking for people to lead worship with Pastor Julie on Thursdays at approximately 3:30 pm. Please sign up via the Google doc: [Worship Leaders](#) or call the office.

Adopt-A-Family

In order to choose one or more gifts from our "Three Trees," click on the links below. You can select from any or all of the three choices. **The deadline is Friday, Dec. 11th to return your gifts to the church!**

After you have shopped for your gift, please **wrap it and put a tag on the gift that tells who it is for and what it is.** We will change the tag to the name only before we deliver the gift. Your gifts should be taken to the church library in the basement. Please do not leave gifts in the entryway for security reasons. A cart is available if needed.

Sign up is easy! Click on the link/s, choose the item/s you wish to shop for, then click 'submit and sign up' at the bottom of the screen. You'll be directed to the next page; enter in your name, email and phone number then click 'Sign Up Now' at the bottom. Your information is confidential; only the church office will see it.

You will then receive a confirmation email.



13 yr old: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-adopt>



9 yr old: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-adopt1>



Household: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-adopt2>

Or, please consider sending a check to First Presbyterian Church and put Adopt-A-Family in the memo. We would be happy to do your shopping for you.

Christmas at Luther 2020: For Everyone Born will be online this year. It's not too late to register for viewing access: www.luther.edu/christmas2020. Registering by December 1 will guarantee access to the viewing link. The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 4. You'll be able to watch the performance from your computer, tablet, smartphone, smart television, or any web-enabled device.

The link to the website where you can view the premiere will be sent to you in an email message on December 2 from the address christmas@luther.edu. No ticket, no login name, no password, no special code nor credentials are needed.

Virtual Christmas Caroling

Since our regular Christmas Caroling can't happen this year, we are planning to have a Zoom Congregational Carol Sing TONIGHT, **Wednesday, December 2** at 7:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to join in!!

Use this link to join

<https://zoom.us/j/92795138581?pwd=ZVF5UzBocWNtdFcx3dzMHdLNWgrZz09>

Meeting ID: 927 9513 8581

Passcode: 901499

To phone in: 312 626 6799



The Work of Advent (after Howard Thurman)



An Advent Poem by Maren Tirabassi – Find more of Maren's work at <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/>

When the carols of choirs are stilled,
when so many dear ones are gone
it seems like the stars

have blinked their tears into darkness,
when the year has kept so many home
and endangered the homes
of so many others,
when the shepherds of the year
are health care workers,
and, like those flock-keepers long ago,
those in essential but poorly-honored jobs,
the work of Advent begins:
to find the grieving, the fearful, the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit
with the story of an unexpected hope
in another time of great danger,
to feed, clothe, shelter, employ,
those financially insecure,
to release the prisoner –
especially those
in immigration detention,
to rebuild all the nations,
because the epiphany is that gifts come
not out of our own chimneys
but from strangers who live far away,
to become stable-makers that shelter
peace, health, wisdom
and care for the earth itself,
to sing the carols in our homes
and teach the words and maybe one tune
to someone, perhaps a child,
who longs for a new harmony.